AVERILL

Averill sounds like a place name, not unlike Haverhill, lacking the aspirate. There is no English parish so called, but possibly some smaller piece of land or a geographic point, such as a hill, bore the name. Avery, the alternative name in the early generations, is equally obscure. *Ave*, like Avon, is a river name, *haver* means oats, Haverhill being a hill where oats were grown, while *ever* was Old English for boar. None of these possibilities are very satisfactory, and the origin of the name remains a puzzle.

Chipping Norton, the Oxfordshire parish from where our Averill family came to New England, is a town of fair size with a large and handsome church. Some years ago I visited it, hoping that the parish register, which began in 1563, would give me additional information about the early generations. The parson was most courteous, but the sixteenth-century ink was so completely faded as to make the entries illegible. Possibly some photographic or acid treatment would be needed to enable the writing to be read. The parson showed me a brass tablet placed in the church by American Averills.

1. —— AVERY or AVERILL lived in the first half of the sixteenth century, presumably at Chipping Norton, co. Oxford, which was the home of two of his sons.

i. JOHN, buried at Chipping Norton July 27, 1577. His will, dated April 25, 1577, was proved March 10, 1577/8. He directed that he be buried in the church of Chipping Norton, to which he left 10s. To the poor of the town, 20s. To my son Walter Averye. To John Trevis, a feather bed, etc. To Mathew Trevis, 13s. 4d. To William Trevis, Mathew Trevis' son, 12d. and all his children 12d. apiece. To every one of John Trevis' children, 12d. apiece. To William Trevis, 11s. 12d. To Philip Avery, Richard Averye and Edward Avery, my brother William's sons, 20s. apiece. To Katherine Newman, 20s. To my brother William Averie, 6s. To my sister Annes Crosley, 40s. To Katherine Trevace. Residue to my son George Averye, executor. Overseers: Michael Chadwell, Edward Walford, William Avery, Thomas Newman, William Trevis. Witnesses: Michael Chadwell, Edward Walford, Thomas Newman.*

Children, living in 1577:

1. *Walter.*
2. *George.*

2. ii. WILLIAM.
iii. ANNES; m. —— Crosley, or Crosby.

* Archdeaconry of Oxford. Series I, Vol. 8, p. 314.

2. WILLIAM[1] AVERY or AVERILL, of Chipping Norton, was possibly born about 1525. He was living in 1577 when he and his three sons were mentioned in the will of his brother John Avery. He would probably be the William Averill who was one of the principal burgesses of Chipping Norton when it was incorporated on February 27, 4 James I [1605/6].*

Children:

i. PHILIP; named in the will of his uncle John in 1577 and in the will of his sister-in-law, Judith Averell, in 1618; d. *s.p.* before Feb. 21, 1628, when a commission was issued to his nephew ("*nepote d fratre*") William Averill to administer his estate. His nuncupative will, made in 1627, and witnessed by John Norgrove, Samuel Averill, Isabell Newmann and Laurens Ellmes, left all of his goods to his cousin William Averill with a special charge to pay the testator's debts and to dispose of the remainder amongst the kinsfolk of the said William Averill.†

ii. RICHARD; named in the will of his uncle John in 1577; presumably the Richard Averill of Chipping Norton who made his will Feb. 28, 26 Elizabeth [1583]. The will, which left all of his goods to his wife and executrix (not named) to bring up his children, was proved May 15, 1584, and a commission issued to John Shaw. The witnesses were John Lancaster, clerk, John Lewes and others.‡

3. iii. EDWARD.

3. EDWARD[2] AVERY or AVERILL (*William*[1]), of Chipping Norton, was possibly born about 1550. He married Judith ——. He was named in the will of his uncle John in 1577. He was buried May 7, 1617, and his widow Judith Averill, survived him one year.

The will of Edward Averie of Chipping Norton, made April 28, 1617, was proved September 25, 1617. To his children John, William, Thomas, Samuel, Edward and Margaret Averie he left a platter apiece. After the payment of his debts and funeral charges, the residue was given to his wife Judith, executrix. Overseers: loving brothers-in-law Richard Berrie and Thomas Hiat. Witnesses: Richard Berrie, Thomas Hiat, Richard Heidon.§

Judith Averell, widow, of Chipping Norton, made her will on October 20, 1618, and it was proved February 20, 1618(9). To her eldest son John and her sons Thomas and Samuel Averell she left £1 each, to be paid by her son Edward Averell when he should be twenty years of age. In consideration of these payments Edward was to have her home and appurtenances "that

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John Coxe late lived in." To her son John, the bedstead which is in the house with a flock bed and a flock bolster, a feather bolster, a pair of hempen sheets, a coverlet, a little brass pot, posnet of pot brass, a platter and a "pottenger." To her son Thomas, a platter, a "pottenger," two silver spoons, a little kettle and a posnet. To her son Samuel, the bedstead in the shop chamber, the second best "bee bedstead," standing in the chamber over the parlor, the worst feather bed, a feather bolster, a flock bolster, the best coverlet, two pairs of sheets, her second best brass pot, her second best kettle, a posnet of pot brass, two silver spoons, two platters, the table board she bought of William Higgons, a little kettle, three of the biggest coffers in the chamber over the parlor, a pewter candlestick, the liquor pan that his father used, three table napkins, two joined stools and the best cupboard in the hall. To her son Edward, two bedsteads in the chamber over the parlor, the best and third chest in the parlor, the coffer that was his father's, the best flock bed, a flock bolster, a feather bolster, two pair of sheets, the second best coverlet, the third brass pot, the third brass kettle, a posnet of pot brass, a little kettle and a little candlestick, two platters, two silver spoons, the table board in the shop chamber, the brass pan that was Thomas Carreck's, three table napkins, two joined stools and the other cupboard in the hall. To her daughter Margaret, "my greene say curtains with the frindge that belongeth to them, the vessell that we call the Corsell, a gallon kettle, and one of the best silver spoones and the ware that I leave unfouled, my best gown, my best peticoat," her best apron, her best kerchief, her best smock and her second best gown. To Robert Berry, her sister's son, and to Thomas Berry, his brother, 5s. each. To Sara their sister, 10s. and "more to Thomas a cracked silver spoon." To Alce Russell, a platter and a brazen candlestick. To her sister Crosbee, a gown and a petticoat, and to every one of her children 12d. To her brother Phillippe Averell, her husband's best doublet. To the poor of the town, 10s. Residue to her son William, executor. Overseers: Thomas Hiatt, Richard Berrye, to each of them 3s. 4d. Her sons Samuel and Edward to have eight quarters of malt that is at William Slatters to be divided equally. To her son Samuel, his father's best cloak, and to Edward his other coat or jacket. To each of them a "Dowghe Kever." To her son Edward Averell, a "Hobbert." Witnesses: Richard Berry, Thomas Hiat, —— Heidon, John Timson.*

* *Ibid.*, Series II, Vol. 2, p. 417.

being much too old to have been offspring of the Averill-Hynton marriage.

Children, six baptized in Chipping Norton:

i. Abigail, bapt. Oct. 17, 1619.
ii. Mary, bapt. Oct. 14, 1621.
iii. Hanna, bapt. Sept. 28, 1623.
5. iv. William, bapt. June 26, 1625.
v. Sarah, b. about 1627. She was in court in November, 1649, accused of too great intimacy with Thomas Wardell. Wardell was not in court with her, and the only other record of him is his subscription to Major Denison in 1648, so his Ipswich residence was of short duration. She was again presented for the lesser offense of wearing a silk scarf in May, 1663. She married John Wildes, as his second wife, Nov. 23, 1663. (*See Wildes.*)
6. vi. Thomas, bapt. Jan. 7, 1630.
vii. John, bapt. ——— 11, 1632. He testified in court, March, 1654, that he had been dwelling with Goodman Cumins the last year, the case dealing with a stolen heifer. He was fined in April, 1656, for striking Jonas Griggs several times in the meeting house "in time of the public ordinance on the Sabbath day." Also in 1656 he sued Mr. Daniel Eppes for not returning a cow which Eppes had had to winter. In 1659 Sarah Marshall came to the court to answer the charges of John Averill, but, as he did not appear, she was discharged. He was probably at Wells, where his brother Thomas soon settled. John Avril was a Wells witness in 1660, signed a petition of Wells men to the Massachusetts General Court, asking the court to restore authority over them in 1664, and sued two Portsmouth men in 1665 and 1666. The last record of him is found in 1667 when John Alcott was granted costs because John Averill had failed to prosecute an action against him. There is no record of a wife, but see Samuel and Joseph Averill, page 48.

5. William[4] Averill (*William*[3], *Edward*[2], *William*[1]) was baptized at Chipping Norton, co. Oxford, June 26, 1625, and was about ten years of age when the family emigrated. He married Hannah Jackson in Ipswich on July 31, 1661. Averill was a housewright by trade. He died in Topsfield on April 23, 1691. She was living in 1701/2, but her death is not recorded.

The first record of Averill appears in the court of May, 1649. He and his brother Thomas with two other men, having been duly notified, failed to "watch," that is to do sentry duty, and were fined quite properly. He was a witness against Theophilus Salter, accused of lying, in 1654. In 1661 Serg. Richard Jacob sued him for failing to complete a new house which Averill had contracted to build for Jacob in 1659, and asked that Averill's bond be forfeited.

In 1663 Averill left Ipswich for Topsfield, an inland town which had been set off from Ipswich in 1650, and there he bought from Daniel Clarke a farm of about one hundred acres on which

was a house with outbuildings, an orchard, meadow land and woodland. In 1667 the town granted him and Daniel Borman permission to dam Mile brook in order to flood their meadows. In 1675 and 1683/4 he was on the county's trial jury, was one of the committee to seat the people in the meeting house in 1675, was chosen commissioner by Topsfield to represent the town at a meeting in the shire town in 1684, and was a selectman in 1688.

The Topsfield church was not fortunate in its early parsons. The incumbent in 1670, Mr. Thomas Gilbert, was presented "for suspicion of being overtaken with drink," and William Averill "late constable of Topsfield," addressed the court, he having been charged with "base carriages" openly in the congregation for doing no more than he apprehended was his duty: "About the 14th of the 9th month last Mr. Gilbert being about to publish an order from the gen[eral] court for a day of thanksgiving, as afterward appeared: hee was pleased to say that on the 4th of the next month the last generall court . . . had given order for a day of thanksgiving, whereupon one that was present Replyed 'Sir, you mean the 4th day of the next week.' I being present saw there was a mistake in bowth [and] I accounted it my duty in conscience to my oth to endeavor to prevent furder inconvenience at that time and place: made bold to say it is the 4th day of this week as I had been informed to which mr. gillbert Replyed 'I blesse god I am not drunk; o base base unworthy cariages to catch at a ministars words. let them that are more godly and judicious speke that are church members.' If I have desarved justly to be so villifyed in the face of an assembly for this cause I desire freely to leave it to the court to determine." Other witnesses attributed Mr. Gilbert's conduct to drink, while several more charitably laid it to his "distemper," he being "not as composed as he used to be." The court admonished him.* It is obvious from what Mr. Gilbert said, that Averill was not a church member.

In 1680, another parson, Mr. Jeremiah Hobart, was haled before the court at Ipswich and fined. Hobart was dissatisfied with the provision made for him, and William Averill testified that in the evening, after Topsfield town meeting, several of the neighbors went up to Mr. Hubard's and Averill noticed that the parson was displeased with the town for not accepting the propositions he had made to them. There was some mention made of the parsonage, and Mr. Hubberd said "I would that [the] parsonage were a fire and som of them int," to which Averill made

* *Records and Files*, III: 244.

so bold as to reply: "Sir, I hope you doe not spake now Just as you thinke." Isaac Cumins, Sr., added that Mistress Huberd replied to William Averill, "Noe, he Does not mean soe."*

William Averill's will, dated April 15, 1690, was proved June 30, 1691. He left to his eleven children, £6 apiece to be paid as they were or should come of age. His lands, housing, stock and household goods to his dear and loving wife, to be improved for the mutual relief and comfort both of her self and family. On his wife's death, if his sons John and Nathaniel were then living, they should each have £10 out of the value of the house before any division be made; then his lands, housing and the rest of his estate should be equally divided among his children then living, the lands and housing to belong equally to his sons. His son Nathaniel might use the shop tools. Executrix: his wife, during her widowhood. If she shall see fit to change her condition, she shall take two of her sons whom she shall judge best able and most faithful to join with her in the executorship. Witnesses: John Wilds, Sarah Wilds. The inventory, taken by Samuel Howlett and Daniel Redington, amounted to £589.† The widow, who lived with her son John, and the children made a mutual agreement for the division and settlement of the estate on February 4, 1701/2.

Children, all but the first two recorded in Topsfield:

i. William, b. at Ipswich May 1, 1662; m. Mary ——— who d., his widow, in Topsfield March 14, 1728/9.
ii. John, b. in 1663;‡ m. June 8, 1710, Anne Greensleet; d. in Topsfield in 1719/20.
iii. Nathaniel, b. Oct. 13, 1664; m. (1) Dec. 13, 1698, Sarah Howlett who d. July 11, 1729; m. (2) June 17, 1730, Lydia French who d. May 31, 1746; d. in Topsfield April 3, 1751.
iv. Job, b. Jan. 1, 1666/7; m. Feb. 1, 1702/3, Susanna Brown; d. in Middleton in 1730.
v. Hannah, b. Dec. 18, 1667; probably d. unmarried.
vi. Ebenezer, b. Oct. 14, 1669; m. (1) Nov. 30, 1697, Susanna Hovey who d. Nov. 11, 1699; m. (2) Dec. 31, 1700, Mehitable Foster of Ipswich; d. Dec. 22, 1716, at Topsfield.
vii. Isaac, b. Jan. 26, 1671/2; d. June 11, 1680.
viii. Thomas, b. Dec. 9, 1672; m. Jan. 27, 1701/2, Mary Baker; d. in Preston, Conn., before Nov. 11, 1734. He was a soldier under Capt. John Hill at Wells, 1693-1694.
ix. Abigail, b. March 8, 1673/4; m., int. July 6, 1699, Jonathan Bishop.
x. Ezekiel, b. July 24, 1675; d. young.

* *Ibid.*, VII: 362.

† Essex Probate, 303: 52.

‡ The date of John's birth, as given in the family genealogy and by Mr. Sidney Perley in *The Essex Antiquarian*, Vol. 4, p. 129, is Jan. 1, 1666. There is no such record in the Topsfield town book, and I feel certain that it is an error. In the document by which William Averill's estate was divided by his widow and children in 1701/2, John's name appears between William and Nathaniel, and I believe that that is where he belongs. By so placing him the eight sons are listed in strict order of age.

xi. Paul, b. June 21, 1677; m. (1) March 27, 1706, Sarah Andrews; m. (2) Feb. 3, 1736, at Wenham, Mary Symonds; moved to Killingly, Conn.
xii. Silas, b. May 1, 1679; d. young.
xiii. Isaac, b. Nov. 10, 1680; m. at Rehoboth, May 16, 1709, Esther Walker; d. in New Preston, now Washington, Conn.
xiv. Mary, b. 168-; m. Feb. 16, 1709, Silas Titus; d. Feb. 9, 1729/30, in Preston, Conn.

6. Thomas[4] Averill (*William*[3], *Edward*[2], *William*[1]) was baptized in Chipping Norton on January 7, 1630. He married in Ipswich on December 8, 1657, Frances Collins who died before 1672 when his wife was Hannah, unless Frances was so called in error. He died in York before October 7, 1714, when administration of his estate was entrusted to his son Job. His widow survived him one year.

While he was still in Ipswich, Thomas was sued for debt by John Andrews in 1658 and gave evidence in two unimportant court cases in 1657 and 1658. By 1663 he had joined his brother William in Topsfield where in that year he was delinquent in paying his share toward the building of a new meetinghouse. He was taxed in the town in 1668.

By 1671 Averill had settled in Wells, Maine, far inland near the Berwick line, where he bought from Jonathan Hammond two hundred acres of upland and ten acres of fresh meadow "at a place Commonly Called Maryland" on October 22, 1671.* Here he built a house, referred to in a Cloyes deed in 1673. On February 23, 1673/4, he sold this entire purchase to Francis Littlefield, Sen.† On January 31, 1678, the town of Wells granted him two hundred acres, which he held until October 10, 1689, when he conveyed it, "comonly known by ye name of Tatnack . . . about six miles from ye Town of Wells, . . . about a Quarter of a mile from ye place where my house Once stood," to Francis Littlefield, Sen.‡ Presumably the house had been destroyed by Indians. Twenty days later Littlefield sold the land to Nathaniel Rust, Sr., of Ipswich.

From his inland location Averill came down to the coast. On June 5, 1680, he bought fifty-six acres at Cape Neddick from Andrew Everest, and on July 10, 1683, from Peter Weare "a necke of Land" of twenty-six acres "one Mile on the Eastward side of Cape Naddack River beginning vpon the South side of a Small pond of Water & from thence vpon a Streight Lyne unto

* York Deeds, III: 11.

† *Ibid.*

‡ *Ibid.*, VIII: 173.

a Percell of Low Land, known by the name of burnt Marsh brooke, & so bounded by the sea, vnto a Small Coue where the fresh water runnes into the sea."* This land was long known as Averill's Neck.

In 1672 Hannah, wife of Thomas Averell, and Thomas Averill of York, aged about 36, testified in the case of Anthony Lamy, a Portuguese mulatto physician, who was accused of causing the death of John Gooch by giving him a strong medicine.

Administration on the estate of Thomas Averill was granted to his son Job on October 7, 1714. From Job's account we learn that Thomas and his family spent the years of the Indian War at Chebacco. Job moved his father and mother, their household goods and stock back from Chebacco to Cape Neddick in his sloop, (£6). Although he gives no dates, this was possibly during the false peace for he moved them later from Cape Neddick to York and finally back again to Cape Neddick, (£3). He also makes entries: "To Taking Care and supplying my father and mother in their old age about seven years in ye time of ye War" (£21), "Expense on my father in his last Sickness and his funeral" (£3), and "To taking care of my mother and Providing necessaryes in the Time of her old Age until her Death, near one year, and her funeral Expenses" (£13).†

Apparently Job was dilatory in closing the estate, for on January 26, 1725/6, Benjamin Averill, mariner, and Ebenezer Lufkin and Sarah, his wife, all of Gloucester, petitioned the Judge of Probate of York County, stating that with their elder brother Job Averill of York, fisherman, they are the only surviving children of Thomas Averill, and that Job took administration eleven years ago but "does unjustly delay and neglect to bring his account in to your Honour." They pray that he be cited to do so and appoint Mr. Jacob Curtice of York as their agent. The judge, on August 27, 1726, ordered that two shares of the land at Cape Neddick be given to the heirs of Job, who had died in the interval, and one share to each of Benjamin Averill and Sarah Lufkin. No personal property is mentioned.

Children:

i. Sarah, b. March 23, 1666, in Topsfield; m. Ebenezer Lufkin of Gloucester.

ii. Samuel (probably);‡ administration on the estate of Samuel Averil,

* *Ibid.*, II: 87, 182.

† York Probate, II: 94.

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late of York, who died in Boston, was granted to his brother Joseph Averill on Jan. 16, 1690/1.*

iii. Joseph (probably); d. *s.p.* before 1725/6.

iv. Job, b. about 1671; m. Mary Preble of York where he died July 5, 1726, aged about 55. Coaster and fisherman.

v. Benjamin; m. Mary Chamblet on July 24, 1702, in Boston; a mariner of Gloucester; d. in 1746.

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a Percell of Low Land, known by the name of burnt Marsh brooke, & so bounded by the sea, vnto a Small Coue where the fresh water runnes into the sea."* This land was long known as Averill's Neck.

In 1672 Hannah, wife of Thomas Averell, and Thomas Averill of York, aged about 36, testified in the case of Anthony Lamy, a Portuguese mulatto physician, who was accused of causing the death of John Gooch by giving him a strong medicine.

Administration on the estate of Thomas Averill was granted to his son Job on October 7, 1714. From Job's account we learn that Thomas and his family spent the years of the Indian War at Chebacco. Job moved his father and mother, their household goods and stock back from Chebacco to Cape Neddick in his sloop, (£6). Although he gives no dates, this was possibly during the false peace for he moved them later from Cape Neddick to York and finally back again to Cape Neddick, (£3). He also makes entries: "To Taking Care and supplying my father and mother in their old age about seven years in ye time of ye War" (£21), "Expense on my father in his last Sickness and his funeral" (£3), and "To taking care of my mother and Providing necessaryes in the Time of her old Age until her Death, near one year, and her funeral Expenses" (£13).†

Apparently Job was dilatory in closing the estate, for on January 26, 1725/6, Benjamin Averill, mariner, and Ebenezer Lufkin and Sarah, his wife, all of Gloucester, petitioned the Judge of Probate of York County, stating that with their elder brother Job Averill of York, fisherman, they are the only surviving children of Thomas Averill, and that Job took administration eleven years ago but "does unjustly delay and neglect to bring his account in to your Honour." They pray that he be cited to do so and appoint Mr. Jacob Curtice of York as their agent. The judge, on August 27, 1726, ordered that two shares of the land at Cape Neddick be given to the heirs of Job, who had died in the interval, and one share to each of Benjamin Averill and Sarah Lufkin. No personal property is mentioned.

Children:

i. SARAH, b. March 23, 1666, in Topsfield; m. Ebenezer Lufkin of Gloucester.

ii. SAMUEL (probably);‡ administration on the estate of Samuel Averil, late of York, who died in Boston, was granted to his brother Joseph Averill on Jan. 16, 1690/1.*

iii. JOSEPH (probably); d. *s.p.* before 1725/6.

iv. JOB, b. about 1671; m. Mary Preble of York where he died July 5, 1726, aged about 55. Coaster and fisherman.

v. BENJAMIN; m. Mary Chamblet on July 24, 1702, in Boston; a mariner of Gloucester; d. in 1746.

* *Ibid.*, II: 87, 132.

† York Probate, II: 94.

‡ Another possibility is that he and Joseph were sons of John[2] Averill of Wells.

* Suffolk Probate.

so bold as to reply: "Sir, I hope you doe not spake now Just as you thinke." Isaac Cumins, Sr., added that Mistress Huberd replied to William Averill, "Noe, he Does not mean soe."*

William Averill's will, dated April 15, 1690, was proved June 30, 1691. He left to his eleven children, £6 apiece to be paid as they were or should come of age. His lands, housing, stock and household goods to his dear and loving wife, to be improved for the mutual relief and comfort both of her self and family. On his wife's death, if his sons John and Nathaniel were then living, they should each have £10 out of the value of the house before any division be made; then his lands, housing and the rest of his estate should be equally divided among his children then living, the lands and housing to belong equally to his sons. His son Nathaniel might use the shop tools. Executrix: his wife, during her widowhood. If she shall see fit to change her condition, she shall take two of her sons whom she shall judge best able and most faithful to join with her in the executorship. Witnesses: John Wilds, Sarah Wilds. The inventory, taken by Samuel Howlett and Daniel Redington, amounted to £589.† The widow, who lived with her son John, and the children made a mutual agreement for the division and settlement of the estate on February 4, 1701/2.

Children, all but the first two recorded in Topsfield:

i. William, b. at Ipswich May 1, 1662; m. Mary ——— who d., his widow, in Topsfield March 14, 1728/9.
ii. John, b. in 1663;‡ m. June 8, 1710, Anne Greensleet; d. in Topsfield in 1719/20.
iii. Nathaniel, b. Oct. 13, 1664; m. (1) Dec. 13, 1698, Sarah Howlett who d. July 11, 1729; m. (2) June 17, 1730, Lydia French who d. May 31, 1746; d. in Topsfield April 3, 1751.
iv. Job, b. Jan. 1, 1666/7; m. Feb. 1, 1702/3, Susanna Brown; d. in Middleton in 1730.
v. Hannah, b. Dec. 18, 1667; probably d. unmarried.
vi. Ebenezer, b. Oct. 14, 1669; m. (1) Nov. 30, 1697, Susanna Hovey who d. Nov. 11, 1699; m. (2) Dec. 31, 1700, Mehitable Foster of Ipswich; d. Dec. 22, 1716, at Topsfield.
vii. Isaac, b. Jan. 26, 1671/2; d. June 11, 1680.
viii. Thomas, b. Dec. 9, 1672; m. Jan. 27, 1701/2, Mary Baker; d. in Preston, Conn., before Nov. 11, 1734. He was a soldier under Capt. John Hill at Wells, 1693-1694.
ix. Abigail, b. March 8, 1673/4; m., int. July 6, 1699, Jonathan Bishop.
x. Ezekiel, b. July 24, 1675; d. young.

* *Ibid.*, VII: 362.

† Essex Probate, 303: 52.

‡ The date of John's birth, as given in the family genealogy and by Mr. Sidney Perley in *The Essex Antiquarian*, Vol. 4, p. 129, is Jan. 1, 1666. There is no such record in the Topsfield town book, and I feel certain that it is an error. In the document by which William Averill's estate was divided by his widow and children in 1701/2, John's name appears between William and Nathaniel, and I believe that that is where he belongs. By so placing him the eight sons are listed in strict order of age.

xi. Paul, b. June 21, 1677; m. (1) March 27, 1706, Sarah Andrews; m. (2) Feb. 3, 1736, at Wenham, Mary Symonds; moved to Killingly, Conn.
xii. Silas, b. May 1, 1679; d. young.
xiii. Isaac, b. Nov. 10, 1680; m. at Rehoboth, May 16, 1709, Esther Walker; d. in New Preston, now Washington, Conn.
xiv. Mary, b. 168-; m. Feb. 16, 1709, Silas Titus; d. Feb. 9, 1729/30, in Preston, Conn.

6. Thomas[4] Averill (*William*[3], *Edward*[2], *William*[1]) was baptized in Chipping Norton on January 7, 1630. He married in Ipswich on December 8, 1657, Frances Collins who died before 1672 when his wife was Hannah, unless Frances was so called in error. He died in York before October 7, 1714, when administration of his estate was entrusted to his son Job. His widow survived him one year.

While he was still in Ipswich, Thomas was sued for debt by John Andrews in 1658 and gave evidence in two unimportant court cases in 1657 and 1658. By 1663 he had joined his brother William in Topsfield where in that year he was delinquent in paying his share toward the building of a new meetinghouse. He was taxed in the town in 1668.

By 1671 Averill had settled in Wells, Maine, far inland near the Berwick line, where he bought from Jonathan Hammond two hundred acres of upland and ten acres of fresh meadow "at a place Commonly Called Maryland" on October 22, 1671.* Here he built a house, referred to in a Cloyes deed in 1673. On February 23, 1673/4, he sold this entire purchase to Francis Littlefield, Sen.† On January 31, 1678, the town of Wells granted him two hundred acres, which he held until October 10, 1689, when he conveyed it, "comonly known by ye name of Tatnack . . . about six miles from ye Town of Wells, . . . about a Quarter of a mile from ye place where my house Once stood," to Francis Littlefield, Sen.‡ Presumably the house had been destroyed by Indians. Twenty days later Littlefield sold the land to Nathaniel Rust, Sr., of Ipswich.

From his inland location Averill came down to the coast. On June 5, 1680, he bought fifty-six acres at Cape Neddick from Andrew Everest, and on July 10, 1683, from Peter Weare "a necke of Land" of twenty-six acres "one Mile on the Eastward side of Cape Naddack River beginning vpon the South side of a Small pond of Water & from thence vpon a Streight Lyne unto

* York Deeds, III: 11.

† *Ibid.*

‡ *Ibid.*, VIII: 175.

being much too old to have been offspring of the Averill-Hynton marriage.

Children, six baptized in Chipping Norton:

i. ABIGAIL, bapt. Oct. 17, 1619.
ii. MARY, bapt. Oct. 14, 1621.
iii. HANNA, bapt. Sept. 28, 1623.
5. iv. WILLIAM, bapt. June 26, 1625.
v. SARAH, b. about 1627. She was in court in November, 1649, accused of too great intimacy with Thomas Wardell. Wardell was not in court with her, and the only other record of him is his subscription to Major Denison in 1648, so his Ipswich residence was of short duration. She was again presented for the lesser offense of wearing a silk scarf in May, 1663. She married John Wildes, as his second wife, Nov. 23, 1663. (*See Wildes.*)
6. vi. THOMAS, bapt. Jan. 7, 1630.
vii. JOHN, bapt. ——— 11, 1632. He testified in court, March, 1654, that he had been dwelling with Goodman Cumins the last year, the case dealing with a stolen heifer. He was fined in April, 1656, for striking Jonas Griggs several times in the meeting house "in time of the public ordinance on the Sabbath day." Also in 1656 he sued Mr. Daniel Eppes for not returning a cow which Eppes had had to winter. In 1659 Sarah Marshall came to the court to answer the charges of John Averill, but, as he did not appear, she was discharged. He was probably at Wells, where his brother Thomas soon settled. John Avril was a Wells witness in 1660, signed a petition of Wells men to the Massachusetts General Court, asking the court to restore authority over them in 1664, and sued two Portsmouth men in 1665 and 1666. The last record of him is found in 1667 when John Alcott was granted costs because John Averill had failed to prosecute an action against him. There is no record of a wife, but see Samuel and Joseph Averill, page 48.

5. WILLIAM[4] AVERILL (*William*[3], *Edward*[2], *William*[1]) was baptized at Chipping Norton, co. Oxford, June 26, 1625, and was about ten years of age when the family emigrated. He married Hannah Jackson in Ipswich on July 31, 1661. Averill was a housewright by trade. He died in Topsfield on April 23, 1691. She was living in 1701/2, but her death is not recorded.

The first record of Averill appears in the court of May, 1649. He and his brother Thomas with two other men, having been duly notified, failed to "watch," that is to do sentry duty, and were fined quite properly. He was a witness against Theophilus Salter, accused of lying, in 1654. In 1661 Serg. Richard Jacob sued him for failing to complete a new house which Averill had contracted to build for Jacob in 1659, and asked that Averill's bond be forfeited.

In 1663 Averill left Ipswich for Topsfield, an inland town which had been set off from Ipswich in 1650, and there he bought from Daniel Clarke a farm of about one hundred acres on which

was a house with outbuildings, an orchard, meadow land and woodland. In 1667 the town granted him and Daniel Borman permission to dam Mile brook in order to flood their meadows. In 1675 and 1683/4 he was on the county's trial jury, was one of the committee to seat the people in the meeting house in 1675, was chosen commissioner by Topsfield to represent the town at a meeting in the shire town in 1684, and was a selectman in 1688.

The Topsfield church was not fortunate in its early parsons. The incumbent in 1670, Mr. Thomas Gilbert, was presented "for suspicion of being overtaken with drink," and William Averill "late constable of Topsfield," addressed the court, he having been charged with "base carriages" openly in the congregation for doing no more than he apprehended was his duty: "About the 14th of the 9th month last Mr. Gilbert being about to publish an order from the gen[eral] court for a day of thanksgiving, as afterward appeared: hee was pleased to say that on the 4th of the next month the last generall court . . . had given order for a day of thanksgiving, whereupon one that was present Replyed 'Sir, you mean the 4th day of the next week.' I being present saw there was a mistake in bowth [and] I accounted it my duty in conscience to my oth to endeavor to prevent furder inconvenience at that time and place: made bold to say it is the 4th day of this week as I had been informed to which mr. gillbert Replyed 'I blesse god I am not drunk; o base base unworthy cariages to catch at a ministars words. let them that are more godly and judicious speke that are church members.' If I have desarved justly to be so villifyed in the face of an assembly for this cause I desire freely to leave it to the court to determine." Other witnesses attributed Mr. Gilbert's conduct to drink, while several more charitably laid it to his "distemper," he being "not as composed as he used to be." The court admonished him.* It is obvious from what Mr. Gilbert said, that Averill was not a church member.

In 1680, another parson, Mr. Jeremiah Hobart, was haled before the court at Ipswich and fined. Hobart was dissatisfied with the provision made for him, and William Averill testified that in the evening, after Topsfield town meeting, several of the neighbors went up to Mr. Hubard's and Averill noticed that the parson was displeased with the town for not accepting the propositions he had made to them. There was some mention made of the parsonage, and Mr. Hubberd said "I would that [the] parsonage were a fire and som of them int," to which Averill made

* *Records and Files*, III: 244.

Children, living in 1618:

I. JOHN.
4. ii. WILLIAM.
iii. THOMAS.
iv. SAMUEL; witnessed his uncle Philip's will in 1627.
v. EDWARD.
vi. MARGARET.

4. WILLIAM[3] AVERILL (*Edward*[2], *William*[1]) was born about 1595, presumably at Chipping Norton where on November 26, 1618, he married Abigail Hynton.* He died in Ipswich, Massachusetts, between June 3, 1652, and March 29, 1653.

Averill was one of the bailiffs of Chipping Norton in 1634. On September 8, 1634, Thomas Hyatt of Chipping Norton made his will leaving to William Averie and William Diston his messuage in the west end of Chipping to provide a preacher to preach five sermons a year. The will was not proved until 1644 when Averill had emigrated, so he was not called upon to administer this Puritan trust.†

The year of the Averill family's emigration is not known. They were still in Chipping Norton in September, 1634, and the first mention of William Averill in New England is on March 2, 1637(8), when Ipswich, where he settled, granted him six acres of planting ground on the further side of Muddy river, and twenty acres of upland and six acres of meadow at Chebacco, then a part of Ipswich but now the town of Essex. Presumably he had been given a house lot in the town at some previous time, and it is probable that he received this unrecorded grant in 1635 or 1636. This lot, whereon the family lived, was on the northeast side of the Ipswich river at the "great cove" below the falls, and contained three acres.‡ William was recorded as a commoner of Ipswich in 1639 and 1641, sued Thomas Newman for debt in 1646, and in 1648 he subscribed the Major Denison's salary.

In March, 1646, the town bargained with William Averill (possibly the son William, who would have been of age within three months) "to keep the herd of goats on the North side of the River, to begin the 29th of this present month: and to have for his pains 5s 6d the week, to have 6d a head at their first going out and the rest at the end of his time, of this pay 3d for

* In the tabular pedigree in the supplement to *The Averill Family* Abigail Hynton is said to have come from the parish of Bicester, co. Oxford, but there is nothing in the text to support the statement.

† Prerogative Court of Canterbury, 91 Seager.

‡ The location is shown on Diagram No. 1 in *Ipswich in the Massachusetts Bay Colony*, Thomas F. Waters.

every head to be paid in butter or wheat, only the last month he is to have but 3s 6d a week."

William Averill made his will on June 3, 1652, and it was proved March 29, 1653. He directed that he be buried in the burying place of Ipswich. "And for my outward estate being but small I doe give vnto my children each of them being seven.* in number the some of five shillings a peece & the rest of my estate my debts being discharged I give vnto Abygal my wife whom I make sole Execotrix." Witnesses: Andrew hodges, Renold ffoster.† The inventory, taken by the two witnesses to the will, was indeed small, amounting only to £40.

The widow Abigail Averill survived her husband only two years and died intestate, apparently without having settled her husband's estate. Her son William swore to the full inventory, again taken by Hodges and Foster, on March 27, 1655. The house and lot was valued at £12, the six-acre lot at Muddy river at £4, "the pequett [Pequot] lot" of seven acres at £6 and six acres of meadow at £5. It would seem that William had sold the twenty acres of upland at Chebacco before his death as it was not listed in either inventory. The Pequot lot, one of those granted to Ipswich soldiers who took part in the Pequot expedition of 1637, among whom Averill is not listed, had probably been bought. The house was very sparsely furnished, but contained a good supply of brass, pewter and iron utensils, bedding and clothing. Interesting items are "a hour glase," a corslet, two bibles and two other books, unnamed, and "a hatt bruish." The total was £77: 04: 11, but there were debts of £13. Not included was "a frame raysed & something done to it to be (considered) whether it be the estate of the widdows or otherwise."‡

William Averill's will states that he was survived by seven children. Six were baptized in Chipping Norton and we know the name of a seventh, a daughter Sarah. The three daughters whose baptismal records we have may not have lived and others may have been born in Ipswich, but as three sons and one daughter we know to have been living in 1653, it is probable that there were three other daughters, married to Ipswich men, of whom we have no record. It has been suggested that James Everill of Boston, an adult in 1634, Thomas Avery of Salem, an adult in 1637, and Abiel Everill of Boston who married in 1655 were children of William Averill, but it is most unlikely, the first two

* First written six, but crossed out.

† *Probate Records of Essex County*, I: 151.

‡ *Ibid.*, I: 201.

2. William[1] Avery or Averill, of Chipping Norton, was possibly born about 1525. He was living in 1577 when he and his three sons were mentioned in the will of his brother John Avery. He would probably be the William Averill who was one of the principal burgesses of Chipping Norton when it was incorporated on February 27, 4 James I [1605/6].*

Children:

i. Philip; named in the will of his uncle John in 1577 and in the will of his sister-in-law, Judith Averell, in 1618; d. *s.p.* before Feb. 21, 1628, when a commission was issued to his nephew ("*nepote d fratre*") William Averill to administer his estate. His nuncupative will, made in 1627, and witnessed by John Norgrove, Samuel Averill, Isabell Newmann and Laurens Ellmes, left all of his goods to his cousin William Averill with a special charge to pay the testator's debts and to dispose of the remainder amongst the kinsfolk of the said William Averill.†

ii. Richard; named in the will of his uncle John in 1577; presumably the Richard Averill of Chipping Norton who made his will Feb. 28, 26 Elizabeth [1583]. The will, which left all of his goods to his wife and executrix (not named) to bring up his children, was proved May 15, 1584, and a commission issued to John Shaw. The witnesses were John Lancaster, clerk, John Lewes and others.‡

3. iii. Edward.

3. Edward[2] Avery or Averill (*William*[1]), of Chipping Norton, was possibly born about 1550. He married Judith ——. He was named in the will of his uncle John in 1577. He was buried May 7, 1617, and his widow Judith Averill, survived him one year.

The will of Edward Averie of Chipping Norton, made April 28, 1617, was proved September 25, 1617. To his children John, William, Thomas, Samuel, Edward and Margaret Averie he left a platter apiece. After the payment of his debts and funeral charges, the residue was given to his wife Judith, executrix. Overseers: loving brothers-in-law Richard Berrie and Thomas Hiat. Witnesses: Richard Berrie, Thomas Hiat, Richard Heidon.§

Judith Averell, widow, of Chipping Norton, made her will on October 20, 1618, and it was proved February 20, 1618(9). To her eldest son John and her sons Thomas and Samuel Averell she left £1 each, to be paid by her son Edward Averell when he should be twenty years of age. In consideration of these payments Edward was to have her home and appurtenances "that

* *The Visitation of Oxfordshire*, Harleian Society, V. p. 261.
† Prerogative Court of Canterbury. 10 Ridley.
‡ Archdeaconry of Oxford. Series I. Vol. 10. f. 193.
§ Consistory Court of Oxford. Series II. Vol. 2. f. 371.

John Coxe late lived in." To her son John, the bedstead which is in the house with a flock bed and a flock bolster, a feather bolster, a pair of hempen sheets, a coverlet, a little brass pot, posnet of pot brass, a platter and a "pottenger." To her son Thomas, a platter, a "pottenger," two silver spoons, a little kettle and a posnet. To her son Samuel, the bedstead in the shop chamber, the second best "bee bedstead," standing in the chamber over the parlor, the worst feather bed, a feather bolster, a flock bolster, the best coverlet, two pairs of sheets, her second best brass pot, her second best kettle, a posnet of pot brass, two silver spoons, two platters, the table board she bought of William Higgons, a little kettle, three of the biggest coffers in the chamber over the parlor, a pewter candlestick, the liquor pan that his father used, three table napkins, two joined stools and the best cupboard in the hall. To her son Edward, two bedsteads in the chamber over the parlor, the best and third chest in the parlor, the coffer that was his father's, the best flock bed, a flock bolster, a feather bolster, two pair of sheets, the second best coverlet, the third brass pot, the third brass kettle, a posnet of pot brass, a little kettle and a little candlestick, two platters, two silver spoons, the table board in the shop chamber, the brass pan that was Thomas Carreck's, three table napkins, two joined stools and the other cupboard in the hall. To her daughter Margaret, "my greene say curtains with the frindge that belongeth to them, the vessell that we call the Corsell, a gallon kettle, and one of the best silver spoones and the ware that I leave unfouled, my best gown, my best peticoat," her best apron, her best kerchief, her best smock and her second best gown. To Robert Berry, her sister's son, and to Thomas Berry, his brother, 5s. each. To Sara their sister, 10s. and "more to Thomas a cracked silver spoon." To Alce Russell, a platter and a brazen candlestick. To her sister Crosbee, a gown and a petticoat, and to every one of her children 12d. To her brother Phillippe Averell, her husband's best doublet. To the poor of the town, 10s. Residue to her son William, executor. Overseers: Thomas Hiatt, Richard Berrye, to each of them 3s. 4d. Her sons Samuel and Edward to have eight quarters of malt that is at William Slatters to be divided equally. To her son Samuel, his father's best cloak, and to Edward his other coat or jacket. To each of them a "Dowghe Kever." To her son Edward Averell, a "Hobbert." Witnesses: Richard Berry, Thomas Hiat, —— Heidon, John Timson.*

* *Ibid.*, Series II, Vol. 2. p. 417.

AVERILL

Averill sounds like a place name, not unlike Haverhill, lacking the aspirate. There is no English parish so called, but possibly some smaller piece of land or a geographic point, such as a hill, bore the name. Avery, the alternative name in the early generations, is equally obscure. *Ave*, like Avon, is a river name, *haver* means oats, Haverhill being a hill where oats were grown, while *ever* was Old English for boar. None of these possibilities are very satisfactory, and the origin of the name remains a puzzle.

Chipping Norton, the Oxfordshire parish from where our Averill family came to New England, is a town of fair size with a large and handsome church. Some years ago I visited it, hoping that the parish register, which began in 1563, would give me additional information about the early generations. The parson was most courteous, but the sixteenth-century ink was so completely faded as to make the entries illegible. Possibly some photographic or acid treatment would be needed to enable the writing to be read. The parson showed me a brass tablet placed in the church by American Averills.

1. —— AVERY or AVERILL lived in the first half of the sixteenth century, presumably at Chipping Norton, co. Oxford, which was the home of two of his sons.

i. JOHN, buried at Chipping Norton July 27, 1577. His will, dated April 25, 1577, was proved March 10, 1577/8. He directed that he be buried in the church of Chipping Norton, to which he left 10s. To the poor of the town, 20s. To my son Walter Averye. To John Trevis, a feather bed, etc. To Mathew Trevis, 13s. 4d. To William Trevis, Mathew Trevis' son, 12d. and all his children 12d. apiece. To every one of John Trevis' children, 12d. apiece. To William Trevis, 11s. 12d. To Philip Avery, Richard Averye and Edward Avery, my brother William's sons, 20s. apiece. To Katherine Newman, 20s. To my brother William Averie, 6s. To my sister Annes Crosley, 40s. To Katherine Trevace. Residue to my son George Averye, executor. Overseers: Michael Chadwell, Edward Walford, William Avery, Thomas Newman, William Trevis. Witnesses: Michael Chadwell, Edward Walford, Thomas Newman.*

Children, living in 1577:

1. *Walter.*
2. *George.*

2. ii. WILLIAM.

iii. ANNES; m. —— Crosley, or Crosby.

* Archdeaconry of Oxford. Series I. Vol. 8, p. 514.

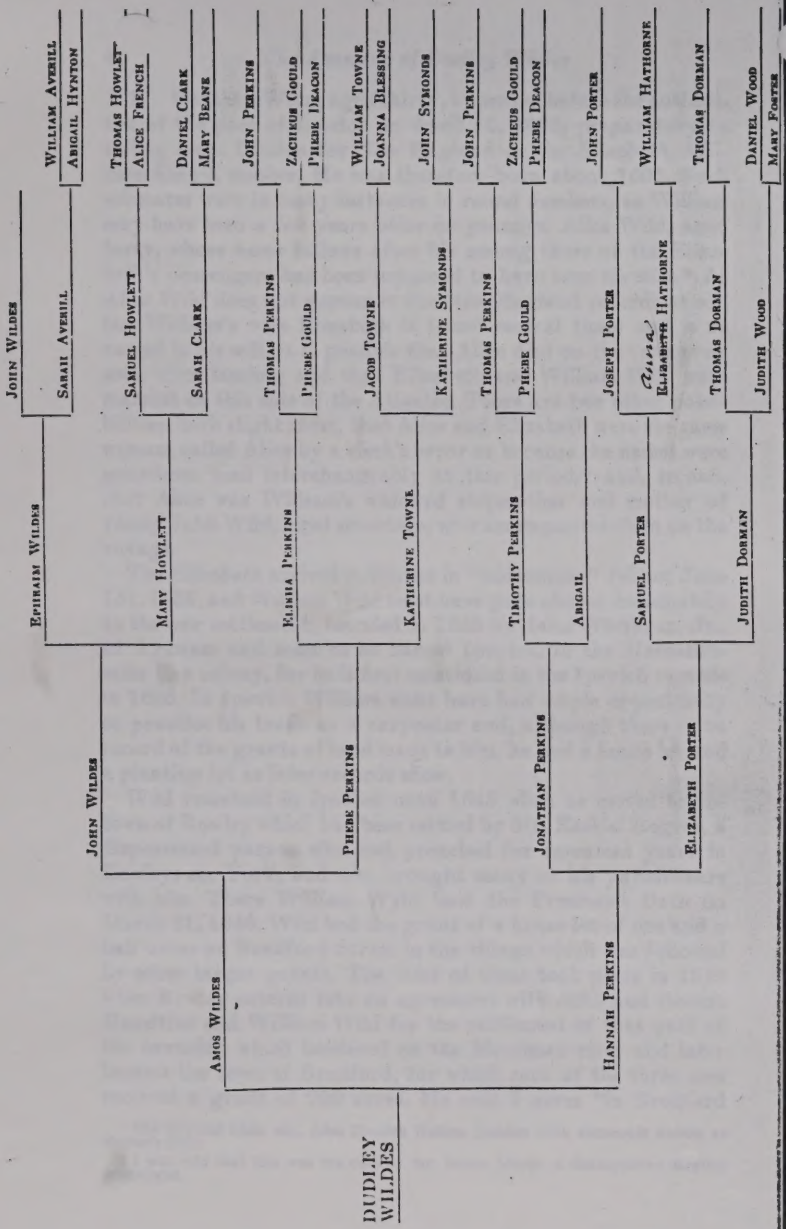
ASA WALDO WILDES
1786-1857

THE ANCESTRY
OF
DUDLEY WILDES
1759-1820
OF
TOPSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

BY

WALTER GOODWIN DAVIS

PORTLAND, MAINE
THE ANTHOENSEN PRESS
1959



THE ANCESTRY OF DUDLEY WILDES

WILDES

Wild is an adjective of which, says the Oxford Dictionary, the primary meaning is uncertain. Ulterior meanings have developed with time. Certainly a very early meaning, if not the original one, was *sylvan* or *rustic*. As a surname it has a long history as one Ulric Wild was, according to Domesday Book, a tenant in the reign of Edward the Confessor, while in the medieval Hundred Rolls one finds Nicholas le Wild, Walter le Wilde and Emma la Wilde. Derived from a characteristic, the surname must have been applied to unrelated individuals, and it is found in many counties, but principally in the northern midlands.

Three closely related people named Wild emigrated to New England in 1635, sailing on the ship *Elizabeth*, from London. Unfortunately, while the parishes where some of their fellow passengers were certified to be conformists and not to be "subsidy men" or large tax-payers appear in the record, there is no indication therein of the English home of William, Alice and John Wild. Seven men from Kent, with their families and servants, were on the *Elizabeth*, but, although there were Wilds in that county, our family has not been found there. It would be tedious to go into detail about the several searches, all unavailing, which have been made to locate its English home.

That William and John Wild were brothers is proved by a deed of 1685 given by John's daughters and their husbands and John's son Ephraim, stating that William Wild in his will, "conditionally gave his lands unto his nephew John Wild, son of his Brother John Wild." John, the nephew, was then dead and his sisters and brother were his heirs. It is unusual that William in his will should have called his brother John his "kinsman," a term generally reserved for a more remote relationship. It is possible that they were half-brothers.

The name continued to be Wild during William's lifetime, and much of John's. The pluralization, Wilds and Wildes, began to appear, however, in the late seventeenth century and finally prevailed. Wild is last found in the Topsfield records in 1716/7.

1. William Wild, aged thirty, appeared before the authorities of the port of London on April 10, 1635, preparatory to sailing from London for New England on the *Elizabeth*, William Stagg, master. He was therefore born about 1605. Such estimates were in many instances in round numbers, so William may have been a few years older or younger. Alice Wild, aged forty, whose name follows after his among those of the *Elizabeth*'s passengers has been supposed to have been his wife.* As Alice Wild does not appear in the New England records at all, but William's wife Elizabeth is found several times and is so named in his will, it is possible that Alice died on the voyage or soon after landing and that Elizabeth and William Wild were married on this side of the Atlantic. There are two other possibilities, both slight: first, that Alice and Elizabeth were the same woman, called Alice by a clerk's error or because the names were sometimes used interchangeably at this period,† and, second, that Alice was William's widowed stepmother and mother of young John Wild, aged seventeen, who accompanied them on the voyage.

The *Elizabeth* arrived in Boston in "midsummer" (about June 15), 1635, and William Wild must have gone almost immediately to the new settlement, founded in 1633 by John Winthrop, Jr., at Agawam and soon to be named Ipswich, in the Massachusetts Bay colony, for he is first mentioned in the Ipswich records in 1635. In Ipswich William must have had ample opportunity to practice his trade as a carpenter and, although there is no record of the grants of land made to him, he had a house lot and a planting lot as later records show.

Wild remained in Ipswich until 1643 when he moved to the town of Rowley which had been settled by Mr. Ezekiel Rogers, a dispossessed parson who had preached for seventeen years in Rowley, co. York, and who brought many of his parishioners with him. There William Wyld took the Freeman's Oath on March 31, 1646. Wild had the grant of a house lot of one and a half acres on Bradford Street in the village which was followed by other larger grants. The chief of these took place in 1649 when Rowley entered into an agreement with John and Robert Hazeltine and William Wild for the settlement of that part of the township which bordered on the Merrimac river and later became the town of Bradford, for which each of the three men received a grant of 200 acres. He sold 5 acres "in Bradford

* *The Original Lists*, etc., John Camden Hotten, London 1874, commonly known as *Hotten's Lists*.

† I was told that this was the case by Mr. Bower Marsh, a distinguished English genealogist.

streete lots . . . having the highway on the east & the common on the west" to James Barker, tailor, in 1652.*

On May 22, 1651, the Massachusetts Bay government appointed William Wild and Joseph Jewett to lay out the bounds of Haverhill, which they did that summer, submitting a report of their task which was accepted on October 30, 1651.†

Wild returned to live in Ipswich before December 17, 1655, when he sold all of his holdings "at Merrimac river near Haverhill" to George Hadley of Rowley for £140. They were made up of his house and barn and 15 acres of land, 28 acres adjoining his house lot, 200 acres adjoining Rowley common, 1 acre at the end of Long hill, 2½ acres at the end of Johnson's creek, 2 acres at Johnson's pond, 5 acres at a place called Five Mile rock on the way from Haverhill to Rowley and 9½ acres of meadow. His wife Elizabeth released dower.‡

The deed to Hadley did not cover all of Wild's Rowley land for in 1661 he conveyed to Robert Andrews 70 acres of the "village land of Rowley" bounded by Andrews, Abel Langley and "shooteing down to Pye brook toward the northeast."§ Also in 1661 he conveyed to William Boynton by a very unspecific description "all my land lying upon the Merrimack river, with the privilidges thereof as it lyeth bounded, the vilage land eastward, the land of Thomas Palmer southward, Merrimack river westward and the land of William Jackson northward."‖ This would seem to conflict with the Hadley deed of 1655.

In 1655 Wyld sued Robert Swan for payment of carpenter's work on a house, and in 1656 he sued William Evans for failure to return a borrowed steer. Mr. John Cogswell acknowledged judgment to Wyld in 1656. He was elected by Ipswich to serve on Essex trial juries in 1656, 1661 and 1662. In the court of April, 1659, he was a witness against John Andrews "for taking tobacco contrary to law."

William Wild of Ipswich made his will on May 6 and it was proved on September 30, 1662. To his wife Elizabeth he left his house and all his land for her life, and after her death he gave them to "John wild the sonn of John wild of Topsfield my Kinsman." To his "kinsman" John Wild, Senior, of Topsfield, £10 "which he the sayd John wild hath in his hands of myne & doe order the bond I have of him for it to be rendered up unto him

* Ipswich Deeds, I: 126.

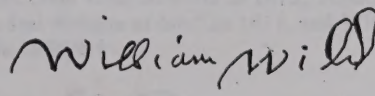
† *Records of the Colony of Massachusetts Bay*, III: 233, 246; IV: Part I: 76.

‡ Ipswich Deeds, I: 182.

§ *Ibid.*, II: 49.

‖ *Ibid.*, II: 90.

after my decease." To Robert Ames, £5. To Mark Warner, £5. To Hannah Lampson, £10. Residue to his wife Elizabeth Wild whom he appoints executrix. Overseers: loving friends Theophilus Willson, William White, Robert Lord, Senior. If his kinsman John Wild, Junior, shall depart this life before he becomes of age or before the house and land comes into his possession, then it shall be divided among the children of John Wild, Senior, unless the said John (Junior) leaves heirs, when it shall go to them. Witnesses: the three overseers. The legatees Robert Ames, Mark Warner and Hannah Lampson were probably apprentices and servants.



The inventory was taken by Theophilus Wilson and Robert Lord, Junior, on June 26, 1662. The house, orchard, the ground about it and a six acre planting lot were worth £46. He had a mare, three colts, two cows and two yearlings, three oxen, six hogs and three pigs. In the hall there were two little tables, three chairs, two forms, a stool, a cupboard, two chests and a box, three cushions, besides wooden ware, earthern ware and brass, pewter and iron utensils. He had a cloak, breeches, jacket and hat worth £6: 14: 4, a serge suit £1: 10: 0, a cloth coat and suit and other old apparell, two pairs of shoes, four pairs of stockings and seven shirts. The principal bedstead was fitted with curtains and valence, a feather bed, bolster, three pillows, blanket, coverlet and rug, while another bedstead had only a straw bed and flock bolster, a blanket and coverlet. His arms consisted of a corslet, a pike, a sword and a fowling piece. In addition there were listed the usual tools of a carpenter. Debts were due him of £71: 10: 0, while he owed only about £5. The "Summa Tottalis" was £225: 14: 6, a moderately large estate.*

Elizabeth Wild of Ipswich, the widow, made a prenuptial agreement with Richard Moore of Lynn on October 30, 1662. Moore was to have her estate to make use of and improve during their marriage, but she should have power to dispose of it at the time of her death. If Moore should die before her, he engaged himself to leave her £40 in addition to what she brought him. They were married on November 6, 1662. Moore made his will on November 29, 1688, and it was proved on September 24,

* Essex Probate. No. 29827.

1689. Elizabeth survived him and the will mentions their marriage contract, but no will of hers is found nor is the date of her death recorded. If she were the Alice Wild, aged forty, sailing on the *Elizabeth* in 1635, she would have been ninety-three in 1688, which is, of course, possible but not probable.

2. JOHN[1] WILD, giving his age as seventeen, registered with the authorities of the port of London for the voyage to New England on the *Elizabeth* on April 11, 1635, one day later than William and Alice Wild had done so.* He was therefore born about 1618. Later in his life his age appears in depositions as forty in 1660, forty-six in 1665 and fifty in 1669, but these estimates were probably less accurate although the variation is slight. His first wife, whom he married about 1643, was Priscilla Gould who died on April 16, 1663. On November 23, 1663, he married Sarah Averill of Ipswich who was hanged for witchcraft on July 19, 1692. The wife of his old age was Mary Jacobs of Salem whom he married on June 26, 1693, and whose husband had shared Sarah Wilde's fate. He died in Topsfield on May 14, 1705, when he would have been about eighty-seven years old.

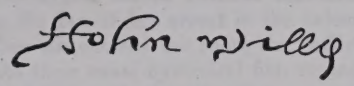
John went to Ipswich with his brother William and continued to learn the carpenter's trade. In 1637 the New England settlers subdued the Pequot tribe of Indians who were bitterly hostile to the English, and John Wild became a soldier, for which service he received 3s. from the town of Ipswich in 1639. Again in September, 1642, an expedition was organized to disarm Passaconoway, the Sachem of the Merrimac, and John, one of the twenty Ipswich soldiers, saw more military action.

After his marriage John moved to New Meadows, then a part of Ipswich but soon incorporated as Topsfield, and settled on a farm, possibly given him by his father-in-law Zacheus Gould, who was a great land-owner, or one granted him by the town of Ipswich. In any event, there is no record of how he obtained his first homestead. The house that he then built seems to have been where he lived for the rest of his life. It stood on the present Perkins Street at the fork of the road coming from Mile Brook bridge, in a pear orchard. Doubtless very simple at first, it was later a two-story house. It was taken down in 1835. In 1660 he bought from Richard Swaine of Hampton and his wife Jane,

* Also on the 11th William Whitredd, aged 36, his wife and son, and four young men, including John Wild, their ages running from 17 to 22, were the only passengers listed for the *Elizabeth*. Whitredd settled in Ipswich and was a carpenter, like William and John Wild. Was John possibly Whitredd's apprentice, brought to London by him? Whitredd is a very uncommon name, which I have found only once, in co. Suffolk. Perhaps it is a variant of Whitredge or Whitbread.

whose former husband had been John Bunker of Topsfield, a 100-acre lot which adjoined his own land toward the northeast.* Wild seems to have bought no more land, but as one of the earliest settlers he must have obtained several grants of common land. He was on the list of commoners in 1659.

His sales of property were mostly to his neighbors. In 1698/9 he testified that he had sold a small parcel to Francis Bates about fifty years ago (1649). He granted 20 acres to Robert Andrews in 1654, and in 1663 he conveyed to William Acie of Rowley, for £35, 32 acres at Bushy Hill and 8 acres of meadow, formerly Thomas Dorman's, at Snookes Hole, in Topsfield. John French bought from Wild 30 acres in 1672, Thomas Perkins 20 acres "in the first division of lots" in 1674, and William Perkins, Sr., 4 acres in 1685/6.†



The earliest book of Topsfield records was destroyed by fire in 1658, so we do not know what Wild's early services to the town were. In 1659 and 1686 he was one of a committee to run the highly controversial line between Salem and Topsfield, and in later years he was often employed to decide town bounds and lay out lots. He was constable in 1661 and 1662, trial juryman in 1679/80 and tythingman in 1682/3. He paid the 9th largest tax, thirty-one being on the list, in 1659, the 7th in 1668, and the 18th in the minister's rate of 1681, when one hundred and five men were taxed. In 1669 Topsfield owed John Wild £14: 16: 0, its largest debt, probably incurred for carpentry.

Although he was not admitted to full communion in the church until 1697, John was often employed in parish business. He was on committees to negotiate with Mr. Danforth to act as minister in 1680/1, "to discourse" with Mr. Capen in 1681, to lay out land for Mr. Capen and to seat the people in the meetinghouse in 1682. In 1689/90 "father John Wilds" was collecting the arrears in Mr. Capen's salary. He was "old father Wilds" in the records two years later. His second wife, Sarah, is on Mr. Capen's list of those who were already members of the church when he began his ministry.

The court records produce some minor suits and unimportant

* Ipswich Deeds, I: 649.
† Essex Deeds, 39: 3; Ipswich Deeds, IV, 271, 376; V: 291.

depositions. In 1646 William Whitredd sued Michael Cartrick and the unexplained verdict was that the plaintiff should pay John Wild 30s., the defendant 30s., and that John Wild was to pay the other 20s. to himself. Mr. William Paine, the Ipswich merchant, sued Wild for a shop account in 1652 and attached his house. The two younger children of Widow Elithorp of Rowley were to be paid their portions into the hands of John Wyldes in 1654 and John Picard, Thomas Elithorp's executor, brought Wyldes' receipt into court. It is interesting to speculate on the meaning of this transaction of which there is no other evidence. Were Wild and Elithorp kinsmen? Wild testified against Thomas Baker for "laughing in meeting" in 1678. When in 1679 the parson, Mr. Jeremiah Hubbard, sued Judith Dorman for slander, Sarah Wildes testified for the minister.*

Upon the restoration of the Stuarts in 1660, a long controversy arose between the English government and that of Massachusetts over the validity of the colony's charter. John Wilds was one of five Topsfield men who signed a declaration that they were utterly unwilling to yield either to a resignation of the charter or anything that should be equivalent thereto. It is difficult to reconcile this courageous act with the fact that Wild was one of the chief witnesses against his brother-in-law, Lieut. John Gould, who was charged with treason in 1686 for expressing the same sentiments but in a more forcible and indiscreet manner. This, and other evidence, indicate that the relationship between Wild and his first wife's family was not cordial.

Sarah Wild, John's second wife, was suspected of witchcraft by some of her Topsfield neighbors years before the terrible delusion of 1692, and most of the stories can be traced to the enmity of Mary Reddington, a very neurotic woman who was the sister of Priscilla Gould, John's first wife. It is also probable that the boundary disputes between the Putnams of Salem Village and the Townes of Topsfield produced bitterness against John Wild in the former faction, he having been officially active in running the hotly contested town lines.

The blow fell on the morning of April 22, 1692, when George Herrick, Marshal of Essex, rode up to the Wilds home and, in the presence of her husband and son, placed Sarah Wilds, then about sixty-five years of age, under arrest, charged with the crime of witchcraft. Ephraim Wilds was constable of Topsfield that year, and to him the marshal handed warrants for the arrest of four others in Topsfield and probably told old John

* *Records and Files of the Quarterly Courts of Essex County*, hereafter cited as Records and Files, Vols. I through VIII, by indexes.

Wilds that his daughter Sarah Bishop and her husband were also named in the warrant and were in custody in Salem Village. It was surely a tragic scene when Sarah rode away with Herrick, never to return to her home, and young Ephraim was left to discharge his sworn duty by arresting William and Deliverance Hobbs, Mary Easty and Nehemiah Abbot.

The formal complaint had been made to the magistrates on the previous day, April 21, by Thomas Putnam and John Buxton, alleging "Sundry acts of witchcraft donne . . . upon the Bodys of Anna putnam and Marcy Lewis belonging to the famyly of ye abovesd Thomas Putnam . . . and Mary Walcot ye daughter of Capt. Jonathan Walcot."

Sarah's examination before Justices Hathorne and Corwin took place on the day of her arrest in the Salem Village meetinghouse. When she entered the room the "afflicted" girls and women fell into their usual hysterical fits, crying that she was not at the bar but "on the beam" which ran across the room. Her replies to the leading questions of the magistrates were simple and dignified: "I am not guilty, sir," "I thank God I am free." Abigail Hobbs, daughter of William Hobbs of Topsfield, a juvenile delinquent who had been arrested and examined and had "confessed" several days before, had said that Sarah Wilds had brought her the Devil's book to sign. Asked by the judge what she had to say to this accusation, Sarah replied "I never saw the book in my life and I never saw these persons before." On such evidence the charge was held to have been confirmed and she was lodged in Salem jail. From there, in fetters and handcuffs, she was taken to Boston on May 13, somewhat later to Ipswich and finally back to Salem for her trial.

No detailed account of the trial, at which she was found guilty, and to which the examination was preliminary step, remains on record, but some of the evidence, in deposition form, is preserved. Also, the "confession" of Deliverance Hobbs, mother of Abigail, was doubtless in evidence. At her examination Deliverance had said that she was present at a meeting of witches in Mr. Parris's meadow at which Mr. George Burroughs preached and Goody Nurse and Goody Wildes administered a sacrament of blood and red bread.

Elizabeth Symonds in her deposition said that Goodwife Wilds in the shape of a cat had lain on her breast all of one night and that the presence of Goodwife Wilds on a lecture day had caused her so much pain that she fell down unconscious. John

Gould, John Wilds' brother-in-law, testified that when his sister Mary Redington was coming from Salem about fifteen years ago Goodwife Wilds (in spirit form) pulled her backward off her horse, also that hens given to her by Goodwife Wildes "went moping about till they died," and finally that, after Zacheus Perkins, for whom he was fetching loads of hay, told him to load it fast or else his Aunt Wilds would not let John carry it for she was angry with him, the loads slipped off and "I did thinke that it was done by Witchcraft." Thomas Dorman said that after Goodwife Wilds asked him "How do your geese thrive?," they pined away so that they were good for little. Humphrey Clark told of a spectral visit at midnight by a woman who seemed to be Goodwife Wilds. John and Joseph Andrews of Boxford had borrowed young John Wild's sythe in 1674 although his stepmother was unwilling to lend it. Having cut and loaded their hay their six oxen refused to draw, a wheel mired and they unloaded the hay for they said to one another that it was vain to strive for Goody Willes was in the cart. Rev. John Hale of Beverley testified that Goody Reddington "opned her griefs" to him, saying that Goody Wiles, her neighbor, bewitched her and afflicted her many times, and that Goody Wiles' stepson, John, had said that he believed his mother Wiles was a witch.

Sarah's husband and son did what little they could to save her. John Wilds testified that he had heard that Mary Reddington had "raised a report" that his wife had bewitched her. Wilds had gone to John Reddington and threatened to sue him for defamation, but Reddington begged him not to do so for it would only waste his estate and that in time his wife would stop her gossip. After this Wilds got his brother Averill to go to the Reddingtons and offer, if Mary Reddington had anything against his sister Wilds, to be a means of making peace. Whereupon Mary Reddington said that she knew no harm that Sarah had done her.

Ephraim, the son, made two depositions. In the first he said that, hearing that Elizabeth Symonds believed that his mother had done her a wrong, he questioned her and she replied that she had no reason to believe any harm of his mother except what Goody Reddington had said. Ephraim had been engaged to marry one of the Symonds daughters, but he broke it off and he believed that her testimony against his mother was Elizabeth's revenge. In the second deposition he stated that Deliverance Hobbs' accusation against his mother was her revenge for

his having, as constable, arrested her—"one might almost see revenge in her face, she looked so maliciously on me." As for his mother, he had never seen any sign in word or action of the crime of which she was accused. "She hath always instructed me well in the Christian religion and the ways of God ever since I was able to take instruction."

The desperate father and son traveled the road to Salem, Boston and Ipswich at least once and sometimes twice a week during the three months of imprisonment to see that she was fed and clothed and to give her such comfort as they could. The jail authorities supplied nothing. It was to no avail. The warrant for her execution was signed on July 19, 1692, and on the same day she was driven from the jail, standing in a cart with four other victims, including the noble Rebecca Nurse, to "Gallows hill" where they were hanged.

In 1703, the people of Massachusetts, including the magistrates and the clergy who had been so active during the delusion, began to experience revulsion against the method of trial of the accused and the character of the evidence on which they were convicted. This did not mean that their belief in the "horrible Witchcraft" and "the Influence and Energy of the Evil Spirits" in 1692 was in any degree lessened. By 1711 the General Court had reversed the conviction and attainder of most of the victims, including Sarah Wild, and some financial aid was bestowed upon their heirs which could not, as Ephraim Wilds said, compensate "for the los of so dere a friend which can not be made up."*

John Wild had conveyed on April 9, 1690, all of his property, real and personal, to his son Ephraim "in consideration of seven years service which I had of him when he might have been for himself," so that he had no estate to be administered.†

Children, born in Topsfield:

i. JOHN, probably b. about 1645; d. in 1677, *s.p.* In 1662, when he was about seventeen, he was left by the will of his uncle William Wild the latter's house and land in Ipswich, after the life estate of William's widow Elizabeth. When he was of age he made an unrecorded "conveyance unto John Harris of Ipswich, locksmith," of his interest in this property, and in 1685 his sisters and brother deeded their reversionary estate, as his heirs, to Harris for £26. This deed is of great importance to us as it establishes family relationships. The grantors were Edward Bishop and Sarah his wife, of Salem, Henry Lake and Priscilla his wife, of Topsfield,

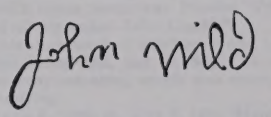
* All of the surviving documents dealing with Sarah Wild will be found, *verbatim*, in *Collections of the Topsfield Historical Society*, Vol. XIII.

† Essex Deeds, 13: 39.

Benjamin Jones and Elizabeth his wife, of Gloucester, Timothy Day and Phebe his wife, of Gloucester, and Ephraim Wild of Topsfield. They state that William Wild, formerly of Ipswich, by his will had conditionally given his lands to his "nephew John Wild son of his brother John Wild" of Topsfield. They as children of John Wild the elder claimed propriety in the said lands after the death of William Wild's widow. This "propriety" was still a future interest, as the widow, then wife of Richard Moore, was alive as late as 1688, but one suspects that she had already sold her life estate to John Harris. The property is described as "One dwelling house which said William Dec'd out of . . . and Rights of commons thereunto belonging, ye said house lott being one acre more or less," also 5 or 6 acres in the common field on the north side of Ipswich river, also a 3-acre upland lot on Hog Island.*

John Harris made his payment by deeding to the sisters and brother, on Dec. 14, 1685, the same day as their conveyance to him, 108 acres in Haverhill.†

John saw lengthy service in King Philip's War. He was first under Captain Poole but in the spring of 1676 Poole's soldiers were transferred to Captain Turner and John became a corporal. On June 24, 1676, the large sum of £9: 5: 6 was due him, and in the following August the colony paid him £6: 15: 6. Poole's company had fought in central Massachusetts, in the Hadley and Hatfield area, late in 1675.



John Wild's will, written Oct. 22, 1676, begins with a statement that he had received from his father that land which was promised to his brother Jonathan and himself, in satisfaction of £50 given them by his grandfather Gould, and "the intant of this is that my father may com to no trobell by any claime of my onkel gould." The land was part of that which was formerly Goodman Dorman's. "And now I being prest to go to the war, being desirous to satell things before I goo: not knowing how god may daell with me in respact to Returning againe . . . I have five sistors and one Brother, Sarah: Elizabeth: Phebe: Pracelah: Martha: and Ephraim and my will is that my land at Hauerill and at topsffeld and my mouabells be Equaly deuided amongst all the aboue named Sistors and brother." Executors: my honored father and my uncle John Redington. Witnesses: John How, Marah How.

John did return, but on June 22, 1677, about to go out for further service, he added a paragraph to his will: "This is to declare that I John Wild of topsfeald do purpose and intend that my formor will, writen in october: before my going to the Eastward shall stand good: prouided it be the will of god I retur[n] not again." Witnesses: John Herrick, Sarah Bishop. The will was proved on Sept. 25, 1677. The principal item of the inventory, taken by Thomas Perkins and William Averill, was the upland and meadow received from his father, the rest being his clothes, four sheep and wool, and a few carpenter's tools.‡

* Essex Deeds. 15: 119.

† Ipswich Deeds, V: 291.

‡ Essex Probate, No. 29826.

Very probably John was in the expedition commanded by Capt. Benjamin Swett which arrived at Black Point in Maine by sea on June 28, 1677, and on the next morning suffered a severe defeat at the hands of the eastern Indians, from forty to sixty of Swett's company being slain. John may have succumbed to wounds received in that engagement. In 1728 his nephew, Capt. John Wilds, held in his name a Narragansett lot at Souhegan West.

ii. JONATHAN, b. about 1651 (about 21 in 1672); d. in 1676, *s.p.* Even discounting the evidence, considering its source, it seems that he was somewhat peculiar in his youth. His uncle John Gould testified at the witchcraft trial of Jonathan's stepmother in 1692 that when Jonathan was ill "in a straing maner" at the house of his aunt Mary Reddington, she said he could go out at the chimney tops into the barn where he would kill her hens. Strange indeed! Rev. John Hale in a deposition said that Jonathan Wiles "about twenty yeares agoe or more did act very strangly Insomuch that I was invited to join Mr. Cobbet & others at Ipswich to advise & pray for ye said youth, whom some thought to counterfeit, others to be possessed by ye Devil. But I remember Mr. Cobbet thought he was under Obsession of ye Devil."

He was about twenty-one in 1672 when he and Edward Putnam, about seventeen, testified that, finding the highway at Beaver Dam flooded and part of the bridge carried away, they dared not ride their horses across the stream.*

Jonathan died before June 30, 1676, when his father was appointed to administer his estate. He was a casualty of King Philip's War. His possessions were small—his mare, saddle and gun, a book, and some few carpenter's tools. "There is . . . land about 15 acres which was to be Jonathans after his father's decease. This to be considered whether to be in the inventory or not." This inventory was taken June 28, 1676, by John How and William Averill.†

In the right of Jonathan Wild, his nephew Capt. John Wilds was given a lot in Narragansett No. 3, called Souhegan West, now Amherst, New Hampshire, in 1728. It was one of the townships granted to soldiers of King Philip's War or their heirs.

iii. SARAH, b. about 1651 (aged about 41 in 1692); m. Edward Bishop of Beverly about 1675; he d. in Rehoboth on May 12, 1711, and she survived him. In 1651 they were living in Topsfield when Bishop was assessed for the minister's rate, but before May 25, 1690, when Sarah was received into the Salem Village church from Topsfield, they had moved to that ill-fated community.

In 1692 Edward Bishop witnessed a witchcraft examination at Salem, after which at the inn, and again as they were riding home to the village, an "afflicted" Indian was very unruly and fell into a fit. Bishop "so managed him that he was very orderly," and in the second instance, when Bishop struck him with his stick "the Indian soon recovered and promised that he would do so no more: to which Bishop replied that he doubted not but that he could cure them all." Immediately thereafter he and his wife were accused, examined and thrown into Salem jail. One of their fellow prisoners was Mary Warren, originally one of the "afflicted" girls, but now herself a suspected witch. On May 13 the Bishops were taken to Boston and from the jail there they and Mary Easty sent a deposition to Salem saying that Mary Warren had told them that "her Head was distempered and that shee could not tell what shee

* *Records and Files*, V: 28.
† *Essex Probate*, III: 80.

said and the said Mary Tould us that when shee was well againe she could not say that shee saw any of the Apparissions." Before Oct. 7 the Bishops escaped from the Boston jail and on that day the Essex sheriff, George Corwin, came to their Salem Village home and seized their property, but their son *Samuel* was able to borrow £10 with which he redeemed it.*

The Bishops made their way to Rehoboth where all of their children eventually joined them except the eldest son, *Edward*, who also shook Salem Village dust from his feet and moved first to Ipswich and then to Newbury.

In Rehoboth Edward Bishop was an innkeeper and on his death in 1711 his will left his estate to his wife and his eight living children.

iv. ELIZABETH: m. Jan. 22, 1678, Benjamin Jones of Gloucester where they lived until about 1687 when they moved to that part of Enfield, Connecticut, which became Somers. Jones had been in Capt. Brocklebank's company in King Philip's War, stationed at Marlborough, for which service he received £1: 4: 0 on Aug. 24, 1676. Administration on his estate was granted to his son *Thomas Jones* of Enfield on July 6, 1718. His wife survived him.

v. PHOEBE, b. about 1653; m. July 24, 1679, Timothy Day of Gloucester; d. April 8, 1723, aged 70. Her husband's receipt for the gift from her grandfather Gould is as follows: "This may sarteft to houm it ma consern that I Timothy Day have reseued the full and just sum of my wife house name was Phoebe Wylds part of ye wish in riten bond of my unkel John Gould."

In 1692 she was accused of witchcraft and taken to Ipswich jail, the Salem jail being full, but on Sept. 24 she was released on bonds for her reappearance, which was never required as the delusion was expiring.

vi. PRISCILLA, b. April 6, 1658; m. May 9, 1681, Henry Lake of Salem; d. March 23, 1688, and he d. May 22, 1733, both in Topsfield.

On the day of his marriage Henry Lake settled his property on Priscilla and their issue, conveying to her, on the receipt of £24 from her uncle John Gold and £9 from her father, his whole estate in New England, agreeing not to give away more than 20s. per annum without her consent. The witnesses were Edward Bishop and Ephraim Wildes. This document was not acknowledged until Oct. 15, 1718, when it was stated that the land later conveyed to him by uncle John Gold was included.†

Henry Lake's lengthy will provided for his four children, *Gershom Lake*, *Priscilla Smith* and *Martha Peck*, all of Rehoboth, and *Eleazer Lake* of Topsfield, and twelve grandchildren. The legacy to his grandson Eleazer Lake was "to be paid toward his bringing up to Larning." It was dated Dec. 7, 1724.

vii. MARTHA, b. May 13, 1660. She was living and unmarried in 1682 when she (Martha Wiles) and John Putnam, aged about 25, testified in a case in which Joseph Gatchell was accused of "presumptuous evils which are next door to forgery."‡ The only other record of her found is contained in the deed of Edward Bishop, her brother-in-law, in which, in addition to the interest of his wife in young John Wild's estate, he conveyed "ye share Interest & Claim of Martha Wild which was ye right he bought of her." The deed was dated Dec. 14, 1685, but Martha's sale to Bishop may have

* *More Wonders of the Invisible World*, Robert Calef, edited by Samuel Fowler, 1861.
† Essex Deeds, 26: 213.
‡ *Records and Files*, VIII: 337.

taken place some years earlier. She may have died unmarried or she may have made an unrecorded marriage.

viii. NATHAN, b. Dec. 14, 1662; d. March 17, 1662/3.

By second wife:

3. ix. EPHRAIM, b. Feb., 1665.

3. EPHRAIM[2] WILDES (*John*[1]) was born in Topsfield in February, 1665 (6). He married Mary Howlett on March 18, 1689/90. Quartermaster Ephraim Wildes died on April 2, 1725, and his widow Mary survived until May 17, 1758, "an aged woman."

He lived on the paternal farm which had been given him in 1690 in consideration for his seven years of service to his aged father, and most of his later purchases and sales of land were transfers of small pastures or fractions thereof between him and his Perkins and French neighbors. He joined with three other Topsfield men in 1718/19 in selling for £40 to Jacob and Edmund Towne, Jr., town grants which had been made to their fathers in 1661 and 1664, and in 1724 he and Daniel Reddington conveyed to David Balch two "cottage lots" on the south side of Ipswich river in Topsfield which had been laid out in 1722.*

The tragedy which overwhelmed this young man when in 1692 his mother was tried and hanged as a witch has been told already. In one of the vain pleas to the court by which he hoped to save her, he attempts to counteract the evidence of Elizabeth Symonds, a Topsfield neighbor. He said that about four years before (1688), when he would have been twenty-two or twenty-three years old, he was courting one of the Symonds daughters, and, "as the maid towld me, hur mother and father were veriey willing" that he should have her. He heard a hint that Goodwife Symonds had said that she believed that his mother had done her a wrong, so he took with him his friend Mark Howe "that is now dead who dyed at the Eastward" and confronted Goodwife Symonds. She denied that she had any grounds to think evil of his mother "onely from what Goodiey Redington had said." This did not convince Ephraim and he left the Symonds house to return no more. He believed that Elizabeth Symonds' testimony against his mother was her revenge against him.†

After being elected to the minor offices generally filled by the younger citizens, Ephraim became constable in 1691/2 and was chosen a selectman in 1697/8, 1714, 1719/20, 1721/2, a tything man in 1702/3 and 1714/5, and overseer of the poor in 1719. Four times he perambulated the bounds between Topsfield and its neighbor towns, Ipswich, Salem and Boxford. He was a trial juror in 1705/6 and 1708, and a grand juror in 1712, 1718, 1721 and 1722. A corporal in the train-band in 1708, he was promoted to quartermaster by 1718. Also in 1718 he was on the committee to seat the people in the meetinghouse, and, with Mr. Isaac Peabody and Mr. Simon Bradstreet, Quartermaster Wildes was paid £25 by the town for building the bridge over the Ipswich river.

A family tradition says that shortly before his death he saw all of his surviving children, thirteen in number, at his fireside.

Ephraim Wildes made his will on April 2, 1725. To his wife Mary he left all his household goods, two cows, the liberty of one end of his dwelling house and the improvement of one-third of all his land so long as she remained his widow. If she married again she should be paid £20 by his sons and executors, John and Ephraim, and resign her dower to them. To his sons John and Ephraim all his lands and rights of land in common, all his cattle (except the two cows given to his wife), all his sheep and horses (except the black colt which he gives to his son Elijah), and all his utensils of husbandry, they to pay his just debts and such legacies as he ordered. To his sons Jonathan, Jacob, Samuel, Nathan, Amos and Elijah, £60 each to be paid two years after his decease or when they came of age. To his daughters Mary Perkins, Susannah Town, Dorothy Perkins and Priscilla, £20 apiece beside what they had already had. To his daughter Hannah, £30 at the age of twenty-one or upon her marriage. His sons John and Ephraim were not to hinder their mother in any of the privileges given her by his will. Witnesses: John Howlett, Joseph Andrews, Jacob Peabody. There is no inventory recorded or on file.*

Mary Wildes, widow, made her will April 28 and it was proved June 5, 1758. To her son Ephraim Wildes she left her old loom, the cupboard and the great table as "he hath ever found me with flax and wood." To her son Jonathan Wildes, 5s. To her daughters Priscilla Averell and Hannah Averell, the residue of her estate. She mentions the money she had lent to her son Nathan during his life. Executor: son-in-law Jacob Averell. Witnesses: Elisha Wildes, Martha Wildes, Zebulon Wildes.†

* Essex Deeds, 35: 270; 42: 264.
† Essex Court Mss.

* Essex Probate, 315: 235-236.
† *Ibid.*, No. 29842.

Children, born in Topsfield:

4. i. JOHN, b. June 25, 1690.

ii. MARY, bapt. March 13, 1691/2; m. Nov. 26, 1719, Thomas Perkins of "Caporpus" [Cape Porpoise], a Topsfield man who had moved to Maine. Cape Porpoise was part of Arundel, later named Kennebunkport, and Perkins became a prominent man in the community which was being resettled after the Indian Wars. There are many descendants. She died April 1, 1742, and her gravestone is still standing.

iii. EPHRAIM, bapt. Sept. 3, 1693; m. Jan. 31, 1730/1, Hepsibah Peabody; d. in Topsfield April 3, 1767; she d. Dec. 23, 1783. In Arundel there is a tradition that Ephraim and his brothers Jonathan, Jacob and Samuel were soldiers at the battle of Norridgewock in 1724 and on their way home visited their sister Mary Perkins at Cape Porpoise, all four returning there to settle. If he did settle in Arundel, he returned to Topsfield on the death of his father, from whom he inherited the family home, built by his grandfather, John Wild. He, in turn, left it to his son *Moses* Wildes. His estate was valued at £704: 5: 10, and the armor listed in the inventory may have been the corslet, pike and sword which had belonged to William Wild, the emigrant.

iv. JONATHAN, b. Oct. 21, 1695; m. about 1725 Elizabeth ———. As a young man he was in Arundel, Maine, before the Norridgewock expedition, for in 1767, when he was 72, he testified that he was familiar with Arundel in 1716.* He went home to Topsfield, where he was a carpenter, and was still there in 1730/1, but in the latter part of his life he returned to Arundel and was an innkeeper.

v. SUSANNAH, b. Oct. 20, 1697; m. April 12, 1722, Benjamin Towne as his second wife; d. July 5, 1736, about two months after she had given birth to triplet sons, *Edmund*, *Ezra* and *Elijah Towne*, all of whom survived to manhood. Towne's first wife had been Katherine Towne, his third, married May 2, 1738, was Mary Perkins and his fourth, married April 15, 1761, was Mary Clark. He died Feb. 11, 1772.

vi. SARAH, b. March 27, 1699; m. Jan. 21, 1718/9, Jonathan Perkins; d. Jan. 21, 1719/20, exactly a year after her marriage. (See page 96.)

vii. DOROTHY, b. Dec. 15, 1700; m. about 1725 John Perkins and d. before 1736. (See page 96.)

viii. JACOB, b. Aug. 31, 1702; m. Ruth Foster of Ipswich; d. in 1774 in Arundel where he was useful in the town government. With Joseph Averill, his cousin, he bought 450 acres and a sawmill in Arundel from James Mussey in 1727/8. He was called millman until 1733 when he sold his half of the mill to Thomas Perkins and in 1734 and 1735 purchased, with Moses Foster, 400 acres, also in Arundel, from Joseph and Benjamin Jeffrey of Lynn. In the last deeds he is called coaster and husbandman.† Administration on his estate was granted to his widow, Ruth Wildes, and his son *Jacob Wildes*, mariner, on Oct. 10, 1774.

ix. PRISCILLA, b. Aug. 12, 1704; d. Aug. 3, 1705.

x. PRISCILLA, b. March 3, 1706; m. about 1728, Jacob Averill, her cousin through both the Howletts and the Averills; d. May 17 (town record), May 22 (church record), 1799; he had d. June 15, 1791.

xi. SAMUEL, b. March 2, 1708; m. Elizabeth ———; d. in 1760. He settled in Arundel and was the town's schoolmaster for several years. By

* Supreme Judicial Court, No. 137226.

† *York Deeds*, 12: 251; 16: 105; 17: 78, 153.

trade he was a carpenter. He bought 100 acres of land there from Jonathan Philbrook in 1728.* His will, made March 6 and proved July 7, 1760, left his property to his wife Elizabeth, sons *Samuel* and *John*, both minors, daughters *Mary*, *Hannah* and *Sarah*, all minors, daughter *Elizabeth Deshon* and granddaughter Susannah Weeks.

xii. HANNAH, b. Oct. 8, 1709; m. her cousin Nathaniel Averill Nov. 24, 1743, and d., his widow, May 22, 1790; he d. Aug. 17, 1751.

xiii. AMOS, b. June 28, 1711; d. July 25, 1726, eleven days after his brother John was appointed his guardian.

xiv. NATHAN, b. Aug. 5, 1713; d., unmarried, "of a complication of disorders," July 10, 1783. From the inventory of his estate it appears that he was a cooper by trade. In his sixty-ninth year he was adjudged *non compos mentis*, and Samuel Smith was appointed his guardian.

xv. JULEENEA (Juliana?), b. Feb. 21, d. March 21, 1716/7.

xvi. ELIJAH, b. Jan. 4, 1717/8; m. May 15, 1744, Anna Hovey; d. in Shirley April 6, 1791; she d. there March 16, 1806. He moved to Shirley, then a part of Groton, soon after his marriage, and when the Shaker religion was introduced into America by Mother Ann Lee, this family, among others in Shirley, was converted and the Shaker Village was built on his farm.†

4. JOHN[3] WILDES (*Ephraim*[2], *John*[1]) was born in Topsfield on June 25, 1690. He married about 1714 Phebe Perkins. Capt. John Wildes, gentleman, died on September 27, 1750, and Phebe Wildes, "widow, an aged woman" died on September 30, 1765.‡

Their father having left them all of his lands in common, John and Ephraim Wildes exchanged deeds on November 16, 1726, by which John granted to his brother his half interest in the Wildes home farm and Ephraim quitclaimed to John his half interest in other parts of their father's landed estate.§ John had already bought 10 acres from John Averill for £40 in 1714/5, slightly more than 3 acres from John Bradstreet for £37 and 2 acres from Dorothy Bradstreet, part of the farm of her late grandfather Simon Bradstreet, Esq., for £28 in 1718.‖

The Saltonstall heirs sold to John and his brother Ephraim 8 acres of meadow in 1731, and in 1733 John bought from his brother Jonathan, for £300, 17 acres and the buildings thereon

* *Ibid.*, 15: 211.

† *History of Shirley*, Seth Chandler, 1883.

‡ The marriage of John Wildes and Phebe Perkins is not recorded, but she has been identified by the familiar method of listing the Phebes born in Topsfield within a proper bracket of years and eliminating those whose marriage or death records are found. In the present case the fact that Phebe Wildes named her eldest daughter Katherine and a son Elisha, both names previously not used in the Wildes family, is strong evidence that she was that Phebe, daughter of Elisha and Katherine Perkins, born in 1690. In addition, Elisha Perkins and John Wildes acted as bondsmen for Elisha's brother.

§ Essex Deeds, 51: 207, 234.

‖ *Ibid.*, 30: 72; 36: 56; 43: 202.

AVERILL

Averill sounds like a place name, not unlike Haverhill, lacking the aspirate. There is no English parish so called, but possibly some smaller piece of land or a geographic point, such as a hill, bore the name. Avery, the alternative name in the early generations, is equally obscure. *Ave*, like Avon, is a river name, *haver* means oats, Haverhill being a hill where oats were grown, while *ever* was Old English for boar. None of these possibilities are very satisfactory, and the origin of the name remains a puzzle.

Chipping Norton, the Oxfordshire parish from where our Averill family came to New England, is a town of fair size with a large and handsome church. Some years ago I visited it, hoping that the parish register, which began in 1563, would give me additional information about the early generations. The parson was most courteous, but the sixteenth-century ink was so completely faded as to make the entries illegible. Possibly some photographic or acid treatment would be needed to enable the writing to be read. The parson showed me a brass tablet placed in the church by American Averills.

1. —— AVERY or AVERILL lived in the first half of the sixteenth century, presumably at Chipping Norton, co. Oxford, which was the home of two of his sons.

i. JOHN, buried at Chipping Norton July 27, 1577. His will, dated April 25, 1577, was proved March 10, 1577/8. He directed that he be buried in the church of Chipping Norton, to which he left 10s. To the poor of the town, 20s. To my son Walter Averye. To John Trevis, a feather bed, etc. To Mathew Trevis, 13s. 4d. To William Trevis, Mathew Trevis' son, 12d. and all his children 12d. apiece. To every one of John Trevis' children, 12d. apiece. To William Trevis, 11s. 12d. To Philip Avery, Richard Averye and Edward Avery, my brother William's sons, 20s. apiece. To Katherine Newman, 20s. To my brother William Averie, 6s. To my sister Annes Crosley, 40s. To Katherine Trevace. Residue to my son George Averye, executor. Overseers: Michael Chadwell, Edward Walford, William Avery, Thomas Newman, William Trevis. Witnesses: Michael Chadwell, Edward Walford, Thomas Newman.*

Children, living in 1577:

1. *Walter.*
2. *George.*

2. ii. WILLIAM.
iii. ANNES; m. —— Crosley, or Crosby.

* Archdeaconry of Oxford. Series I, Vol. 8, p. 514.

2. WILLIAM[1] AVERY or AVERILL, of Chipping Norton, was possibly born about 1525. He was living in 1577 when he and his three sons were mentioned in the will of his brother John Avery. He would probably be the William Averill who was one of the principal burgesses of Chipping Norton when it was incorporated on February 27, 4 James I [1605/6].*

Children:

i. PHILIP; named in the will of his uncle John in 1577 and in the will of his sister-in-law, Judith Averell, in 1618; d. *s.p.* before Feb. 21, 1628, when a commission was issued to his nephew (*"nepote d fratre"*) William Averill to administer his estate. His nuncupative will, made in 1627, and witnessed by John Norgrove, Samuel Averill, Isabell Newmann and Laurens Ellmes, left all of his goods to his cousin William Averill with a special charge to pay the testator's debts and to dispose of the remainder amongst the kinsfolk of the said William Averill.†

ii. RICHARD; named in the will of his uncle John in 1577; presumably the Richard Averill of Chipping Norton who made his will Feb. 28, 26 Elizabeth [1583]. The will, which left all of his goods to his wife and executrix (not named) to bring up his children, was proved May 15, 1584, and a commission issued to John Shaw. The witnesses were John Lancaster, clerk, John Lewes and others.‡

3. iii. EDWARD.

3. EDWARD[2] AVERY or AVERILL (*William*[1]), of Chipping Norton, was possibly born about 1550. He married Judith ——. He was named in the will of his uncle John in 1577. He was buried May 7, 1617, and his widow Judith Averill, survived him one year.

The will of Edward Averie of Chipping Norton, made April 28, 1617, was proved September 25, 1617. To his children John, William, Thomas, Samuel, Edward and Margaret Averie he left a platter apiece. After the payment of his debts and funeral charges, the residue was given to his wife Judith, executrix. Overseers: loving brothers-in-law Richard Berrie and Thomas Hiat. Witnesses: Richard Berrie, Thomas Hiat, Richard Heidon.§

Judith Averell, widow, of Chipping Norton, made her will on October 20, 1618, and it was proved February 20, 1618(9). To her eldest son John and her sons Thomas and Samuel Averell she left £1 each, to be paid by her son Edward Averell when he should be twenty years of age. In consideration of these payments Edward was to have her home and appurtenances "that

* *The Visitation of Oxfordshire*, Harleian Society, V, p. 261.
† Prerogative Court of Canterbury, 10 Ridley.
‡ Archdeaconry of Oxford, Series I, Vol. 10, f. 193.
§ Consistory Court of Oxford, Series II, Vol. 2, f. 371.

John Coxe late lived in." To her son John, the bedstead which is in the house with a flock bed and a flock bolster, a feather bolster, a pair of hempen sheets, a coverlet, a little brass pot, posnet of pot brass, a platter and a "pottenger." To her son Thomas, a platter, a "pottenger," two silver spoons, a little kettle and a posnet. To her son Samuel, the bedstead in the shop chamber, the second best "bee bedstead," standing in the chamber over the parlor, the worst feather bed, a feather bolster, a flock bolster, the best coverlet, two pairs of sheets, her second best brass pot, her second best kettle, a posnet of pot brass, two silver spoons, two platters, the table board she bought of William Higgons, a little kettle, three of the biggest coffers in the chamber over the parlor, a pewter candlestick, the liquor pan that his father used, three table napkins, two joined stools and the best cupboard in the hall. To her son Edward, two bedsteads in the chamber over the parlor, the best and third chest in the parlor, the coffer that was his father's, the best flock bed, a flock bolster, a feather bolster, two pair of sheets, the second best coverlet, the third brass pot, the third brass kettle, a posnet of pot brass, a little kettle and a little candlestick, two platters, two silver spoons, the table board in the shop chamber, the brass pan that was Thomas Carreck's, three table napkins, two joined stools and the other cupboard in the hall. To her daughter Margaret, "my greene say curtains with the frindge that belongeth to them, the vessell that we call the Corsell, a gallon kettle, and one of the best silver spoones and the ware that I leave unfouled, my best gown, my best peticoat," her best apron, her best kerchief, her best smock and her second best gown. To Robert Berry, her sister's son, and to Thomas Berry, his brother, 5s. each. To Sara their sister, 10s. and "more to Thomas a cracked silver spoon." To Alce Russell, a platter and a brazen candlestick. To her sister Crosbee, a gown and a petticoat, and to every one of her children 12d. To her brother Phillippe Averell, her husband's best doublet. To the poor of the town, 10s. Residue to her son William, executor. Overseers: Thomas Hiatt, Richard Berrye, to each of them 3s. 4d. Her sons Samuel and Edward to have eight quarters of malt that is at William Slatters to be divided equally. To her son Samuel, his father's best cloak, and to Edward his other coat or jacket. To each of them a "Dowghe Kever." To her son Edward Averell, a "Hobbert." Witnesses: Richard Berry, Thomas Hiat, —— Heidon, John Timson.*

* *Ibid.*, Series II, Vol. 2, p. 417.

Children, living in 1618:

i. JOHN.
4. ii. WILLIAM.
iii. THOMAS.
iv. SAMUEL; witnessed his uncle Philip's will in 1627.
v. EDWARD.
vi. MARGARET.

4. WILLIAM[3] AVERILL (*Edward*[2], *William*[1]) was born about 1595, presumably at Chipping Norton where on November 26, 1618, he married Abigail Hynton.* He died in Ipswich, Massachusetts, between June 3, 1652, and March 29, 1653.

Averill was one of the bailiffs of Chipping Norton in 1634. On September 8, 1634, Thomas Hyatt of Chipping Norton made his will leaving to William Averie and William Diston his messuage in the west end of Chipping to provide a preacher to preach five sermons a year. The will was not proved until 1644 when Averill had emigrated, so he was not called upon to administer this Puritan trust.†

The year of the Averill family's emigration is not known. They were still in Chipping Norton in September, 1634, and the first mention of William Averill in New England is on March 2, 1637(8), when Ipswich, where he settled, granted him six acres of planting ground on the further side of Muddy river, and twenty acres of upland and six acres of meadow at Chebacco, then a part of Ipswich but now the town of Essex. Presumably he had been given a house lot in the town at some previous time, and it is probable that he received this unrecorded grant in 1635 or 1636. This lot, whereon the family lived, was on the northeast side of the Ipswich river at the "great cove" below the falls, and contained three acres.‡ William was recorded as a commoner of Ipswich in 1639 and 1641, sued Thomas Newman for debt in 1646, and in 1648 he subscribed the Major Denison's salary.

In March, 1646, the town bargained with William Averill (possibly the son William, who would have been of age within three months) "to keep the herd of goats on the North side of the River, to begin the 29th of this present month: and to have for his pains 5s 6d the week, to have 6d a head at their first going out and the rest at the end of his time, of this pay 3d for

* In the tabular pedigree in the supplement to *The Averill Family* Abigail Hynton is said to have come from the parish of Bicester, co. Oxford, but there is nothing in the text to support the statement.

† Prerogative Court of Canterbury, 91 Seager.

‡ The location is shown on Diagram No. 1 in *Ipswich in the Massachusetts Bay Colony*, Thomas F. Waters.

every head to be paid in butter or wheat, only the last month he is to have but 3s 6d a week."

William Averill made his will on June 3, 1652, and it was proved March 29, 1653. He directed that he be buried in the burying place of Ipswich. "And for my outward estate being but small I doe give vnto my children each of them being seven.* in number the some of five shillings a peece & the rest of my estate my debts being discharged I give vnto Abygal my wife whom I make sole Execotrix." Witnesses: Andrew hodges, Renold ffoster.† The inventory, taken by the two witnesses to the will, was indeed small, amounting only to £40.

The widow Abigail Averill survived her husband only two years and died intestate, apparently without having settled her husband's estate. Her son William swore to the full inventory, again taken by Hodges and Foster, on March 27, 1655. The house and lot was valued at £12, the six-acre lot at Muddy river at £4, "the pequett [Pequot] lot" of seven acres at £6 and six acres of meadow at £5. It would seem that William had sold the twenty acres of upland at Chebacco before his death as it was not listed in either inventory. The Pequot lot, one of those granted to Ipswich soldiers who took part in the Pequot expedition of 1637, among whom Averill is not listed, had probably been bought. The house was very sparsely furnished, but contained a good supply of brass, pewter and iron utensils, bedding and clothing. Interesting items are "a hour glase," a corslet, two bibles and two other books, unnamed, and "a hatt bruish." The total was £77: 04: 11, but there were debts of £13. Not included was "a frame raysed & something done to it to be (considered) whether it be the estate of the widdows or otherwise."‡

William Averill's will states that he was survived by seven children. Six were baptized in Chipping Norton and we know the name of a seventh, a daughter Sarah. The three daughters whose baptismal records we have may not have lived and others may have been born in Ipswich, but as three sons and one daughter we know to have been living in 1653, it is probable that there were three other daughters, married to Ipswich men, of whom we have no record. It has been suggested that James Everill of Boston, an adult in 1634, Thomas Avery of Salem, an adult in 1637, and Abiel Everill of Boston who married in 1655 were children of William Averill, but it is most unlikely, the first two

* First written six, but crossed out.

† *Probate Records of Essex County*, I: 151.

‡ *Ibid.*, I: 201.

being much too old to have been offspring of the Averill-Hynton marriage.

Children, six baptized in Chipping Norton:

i. Abigail, bapt. Oct. 17, 1619.
ii. Mary, bapt. Oct. 14, 1621.
iii. Hanna, bapt. Sept. 28, 1623.
5. iv. William, bapt. June 26, 1625.
v. Sarah, b. about 1627. She was in court in November, 1649, accused of too great intimacy with Thomas Wardell. Wardell was not in court with her, and the only other record of him is his subscription to Major Denison in 1648, so his Ipswich residence was of short duration. She was again presented for the lesser offense of wearing a silk scarf in May, 1663. She married John Wildes, as his second wife, Nov. 23, 1663. (*See Wildes.*)
6. vi. Thomas, bapt. Jan. 7, 1630.
vii. John, bapt. ——— 11, 1632. He testified in court, March, 1654, that he had been dwelling with Goodman Cumins the last year, the case dealing with a stolen heifer. He was fined in April, 1656, for striking Jonas Griggs several times in the meeting house "in time of the public ordinance on the Sabbath day." Also in 1656 he sued Mr. Daniel Eppes for not returning a cow which Eppes had had to winter. In 1659 Sarah Marshall came to the court to answer the charges of John Averill, but, as he did not appear, she was discharged. He was probably at Wells, where his brother Thomas soon settled. John Avril was a Wells witness in 1660, signed a petition of Wells men to the Massachusetts General Court, asking the court to restore authority over them in 1664, and sued two Portsmouth men in 1665 and 1666. The last record of him is found in 1667 when John Alcott was granted costs because John Averill had failed to prosecute an action against him. There is no record of a wife, but see Samuel and Joseph Averill, page 48.

5. William[4] Averill (*William*[3], *Edward*[2], *William*[1]) was baptized at Chipping Norton, co. Oxford, June 26, 1625, and was about ten years of age when the family emigrated. He married Hannah Jackson in Ipswich on July 31, 1661. Averill was a housewright by trade. He died in Topsfield on April 23, 1691. She was living in 1701/2, but her death is not recorded.

The first record of Averill appears in the court of May, 1649. He and his brother Thomas with two other men, having been duly notified, failed to "watch," that is to do sentry duty, and were fined quite properly. He was a witness against Theophilus Salter, accused of lying, in 1654. In 1661 Serg. Richard Jacob sued him for failing to complete a new house which Averill had contracted to build for Jacob in 1659, and asked that Averill's bond be forfeited.

In 1663 Averill left Ipswich for Topsfield, an inland town which had been set off from Ipswich in 1650, and there he bought from Daniel Clarke a farm of about one hundred acres on which

was a house with outbuildings, an orchard, meadow land and woodland. In 1667 the town granted him and Daniel Borman permission to dam Mile brook in order to flood their meadows. In 1675 and 1683/4 he was on the county's trial jury, was one of the committee to seat the people in the meeting house in 1675, was chosen commissioner by Topsfield to represent the town at a meeting in the shire town in 1684, and was a selectman in 1688.

The Topsfield church was not fortunate in its early parsons. The incumbent in 1670, Mr. Thomas Gilbert, was presented "for suspicion of being overtaken with drink," and William Averill "late constable of Topsfield," addressed the court, he having been charged with "base carriages" openly in the congregation for doing no more than he apprehended was his duty: "About the 14th of the 9th month last Mr. Gilbert being about to publish an order from the gen[eral] court for a day of thanksgiving, as afterward appeared: hee was pleased to say that on the 4th of the next month the last generall court . . . had given order for a day of thanksgiving, whereupon one that was present Replyed 'Sir, you mean the 4th day of the next week.' I being present saw there was a mistake in bowth [and] I accounted it my duty in conscience to my oth to endeavor to prevent furder inconvenience at that time and place: made bold to say it is the 4th day of this week as I had been informed to which mr. gillbert Replyed 'I blesse god I am not drunk; o base base unworthy cariages to catch at a ministars words. let them that are more godly and judicious speke that are church members.' If I have desarved justly to be so villifyed in the face of an assembly for this cause I desire freely to leave it to the court to determine." Other witnesses attributed Mr. Gilbert's conduct to drink, while several more charitably laid it to his "distemper," he being "not as composed as he used to be." The court admonished him.* It is obvious from what Mr. Gilbert said, that Averill was not a church member.

In 1680, another parson, Mr. Jeremiah Hobart, was haled before the court at Ipswich and fined. Hobart was dissatisfied with the provision made for him, and William Averill testified that in the evening, after Topsfield town meeting, several of the neighbors went up to Mr. Hubard's and Averill noticed that the parson was displeased with the town for not accepting the propositions he had made to them. There was some mention made of the parsonage, and Mr. Hubberd said "I would that [the] parsonage were a fire and som of them int," to which Averill made

* *Records and Files*, III: 244.

so bold as to reply: "Sir, I hope you doe not spake now Just as you thinke." Isaac Cumins, Sr., added that Mistress Huberd replied to William Averill, "Noe, he Does not mean soe."*

William Averill's will, dated April 15, 1690, was proved June 30, 1691. He left to his eleven children, £6 apiece to be paid as they were or should come of age. His lands, housing, stock and household goods to his dear and loving wife, to be improved for the mutual relief and comfort both of her self and family. On his wife's death, if his sons John and Nathaniel were then living, they should each have £10 out of the value of the house before any division be made; then his lands, housing and the rest of his estate should be equally divided among his children then living, the lands and housing to belong equally to his sons. His son Nathaniel might use the shop tools. Executrix: his wife, during her widowhood. If she shall see fit to change her condition, she shall take two of her sons whom she shall judge best able and most faithful to join with her in the executorship. Witnesses: John Wilds, Sarah Wilds. The inventory, taken by Samuel Howlett and Daniel Redington, amounted to £589.† The widow, who lived with her son John, and the children made a mutual agreement for the division and settlement of the estate on February 4, 1701/2.

Children, all but the first two recorded in Topsfield:

i. William, b. at Ipswich May 1, 1662; m. Mary ——— who d., his widow, in Topsfield March 14, 1728/9.
ii. John, b. in 1663;‡ m. June 8, 1710, Anne Greensleet; d. in Topsfield in 1719/20.
iii. Nathaniel, b. Oct. 13, 1664; m. (1) Dec. 13, 1698, Sarah Howlett who d. July 11, 1729; m. (2) June 17, 1730, Lydia French who d. May 31, 1746; d. in Topsfield April 3, 1751.
iv. Job, b. Jan. 1, 1666/7; m. Feb. 1, 1702/3, Susanna Brown; d. in Middleton in 1730.
v. Hannah, b. Dec. 18, 1667; probably d. unmarried.
vi. Ebenezer, b. Oct. 14, 1669; m. (1) Nov. 30, 1697, Susanna Hovey who d. Nov. 11, 1699; m. (2) Dec. 31, 1700, Mehitable Foster of Ipswich; d. Dec. 22, 1716, at Topsfield.
vii. Isaac, b. Jan. 26, 1671/2; d. June 11, 1680.
viii. Thomas, b. Dec. 9, 1672; m. Jan. 27, 1701/2, Mary Baker; d. in Preston, Conn., before Nov. 11, 1734. He was a soldier under Capt. John Hill at Wells, 1693-1694.
ix. Abigail, b. March 8, 1673/4; m., int. July 6, 1699, Jonathan Bishop.
x. Ezekiel, b. July 24, 1675; d. young.

* *Ibid.*, VII: 362.

† Essex Probate, 303: 52.

‡ The date of John's birth, as given in the family genealogy and by Mr. Sidney Perley in *The Essex Antiquarian*, Vol. 4, p. 129, is Jan. 1, 1666. There is no such record in the Topsfield town book, and I feel certain that it is an error. In the document by which William Averill's estate was divided by his widow and children in 1701/2, John's name appears between William and Nathaniel, and I believe that that is where he belongs. By so placing him the eight sons are listed in strict order of age.

xi. Paul, b. June 21, 1677; m. (1) March 27, 1706, Sarah Andrews; m. (2) Feb. 3, 1736, at Wenham, Mary Symonds; moved to Killingly, Conn.
xii. Silas, b. May 1, 1679; d. young.
xiii. Isaac, b. Nov. 10, 1680; m. at Rehoboth, May 16, 1709, Esther Walker; d. in New Preston, now Washington, Conn.
xiv. Mary, b. 168-; m. Feb. 16, 1709, Silas Titus; d. Feb. 9, 1729/30, in Preston, Conn.

6. Thomas[4] Averill (*William*[3], *Edward*[2], *William*[1]) was baptized in Chipping Norton on January 7, 1630. He married in Ipswich on December 8, 1657, Frances Collins who died before 1672 when his wife was Hannah, unless Frances was so called in error. He died in York before October 7, 1714, when administration of his estate was entrusted to his son Job. His widow survived him one year.

While he was still in Ipswich, Thomas was sued for debt by John Andrews in 1658 and gave evidence in two unimportant court cases in 1657 and 1658. By 1663 he had joined his brother William in Topsfield where in that year he was delinquent in paying his share toward the building of a new meetinghouse. He was taxed in the town in 1668.

By 1671 Averill had settled in Wells, Maine, far inland near the Berwick line, where he bought from Jonathan Hammond two hundred acres of upland and ten acres of fresh meadow "at a place Commonly Called Maryland" on October 22, 1671.* Here he built a house, referred to in a Cloyes deed in 1673. On February 23, 1673/4, he sold this entire purchase to Francis Littlefield, Sen.† On January 31, 1678, the town of Wells granted him two hundred acres, which he held until October 10, 1689, when he conveyed it, "comonly known by ye name of Tatnack . . . about six miles from ye Town of Wells, . . . about a Quarter of a mile from ye place where my house Once stood," to Francis Littlefield, Sen.‡ Presumably the house had been destroyed by Indians. Twenty days later Littlefield sold the land to Nathaniel Rust, Sr., of Ipswich.

From his inland location Averill came down to the coast. On June 5, 1680, he bought fifty-six acres at Cape Neddick from Andrew Everest, and on July 10, 1683, from Peter Weare "a necke of Land" of twenty-six acres "one Mile on the Eastward side of Cape Naddack River beginning vpon the South side of a Small pond of Water & from thence vpon a Streight Lyne unto

* York Deeds, III: 11.

† *Ibid.*

‡ *Ibid.*, VIII: 175.

a Percell of Low Land, known by the name of burnt Marsh brooke, & so bounded by the sea, vnto a Small Coue where the fresh water runnes into the sea."* This land was long known as Averill's Neck.

In 1672 Hannah, wife of Thomas Averell, and Thomas Averill of York, aged about 36, testified in the case of Anthony Lamy, a Portuguese mulatto physician, who was accused of causing the death of John Gooch by giving him a strong medicine.

Administration on the estate of Thomas Averill was granted to his son Job on October 7, 1714. From Job's account we learn that Thomas and his family spent the years of the Indian War at Chebacco. Job moved his father and mother, their household goods and stock back from Chebacco to Cape Neddick in his sloop, (£6). Although he gives no dates, this was possibly during the false peace for he moved them later from Cape Neddick to York and finally back again to Cape Neddick, (£3). He also makes entries: "To Taking Care and supplying my father and mother in their old age about seven years in ye time of ye War" (£21), "Expense on my father in his last Sickness and his funeral" (£3), and "To taking care of my mother and Providing necessaryes in the Time of her old Age until her Death, near one year, and her funeral Expenses" (£13).†

Apparently Job was dilatory in closing the estate, for on January 26, 1725/6, Benjamin Averill, mariner, and Ebenezer Lufkin and Sarah, his wife, all of Gloucester, petitioned the Judge of Probate of York County, stating that with their elder brother Job Averill of York, fisherman, they are the only surviving children of Thomas Averill, and that Job took administration eleven years ago but "does unjustly delay and neglect to bring his account in to your Honour." They pray that he be cited to do so and appoint Mr. Jacob Curtice of York as their agent. The judge, on August 27, 1726, ordered that two shares of the land at Cape Neddick be given to the heirs of Job, who had died in the interval, and one share to each of Benjamin Averill and Sarah Lufkin. No personal property is mentioned.

Children:

i. SARAH, b. March 23, 1666, in Topsfield; m. Ebenezer Lufkin of Gloucester.

ii. SAMUEL (probably);‡ administration on the estate of Samuel Averil, late of York, who died in Boston, was granted to his brother Joseph Averill on Jan. 16, 1690/1.*

iii. JOSEPH (probably); d. *s.p.* before 1725/6.

iv. JOB, b. about 1671; m. Mary Preble of York where he died July 5, 1726, aged about 55. Coaster and fisherman.

v. BENJAMIN; m. Mary Chamblet on July 24, 1702, in Boston; a mariner of Gloucester; d. in 1746.

* *Ibid.*, II: 87, 132.

† York Probate, II: 94.

‡ Another possibility is that he and Joseph were sons of John[2] Averill of Wells.

* Suffolk Probate.